

Hafa Adai!

Winzy wants IPI's bid to set aside default judgment denied. **PAGE 2**
Projects to revamp main Saipan roads will kick off soon. **PAGE 3**

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3 cases of UK variant in Guam

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 4, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	19,461
Fully Vaccinated:	17,017
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,207
Fully Vaccinated:	2,319
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	54

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,989	15	8,004
Recovered	7,758	9	7,767
Active	85	15	100
Deaths	136	1	137
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			155,475

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	168	0	168
Traced via Travel Screening	132	0	132
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			48

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Guam confirmed late Tuesday that three of its newest cases of COVID-19 were caused by what's referred to as the U.K. variant, which is considered a more highly transmissible form of the virus.

Also, the island saw another COVID-19-related fatality last May 3 at the Guam Regional Medical City, raising Guam's fatality total to 137.

The Joint Information Center Guam announced yesterday that it was notified on May

3 at approximately 5:37am that a 59-year-old male with
See VARIANT on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

'CNMI DIDN'T COMPLY WITH PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS'

Auditor finds \$363K questioned costs in DOI grant

» **CNMI agrees with audit recommendation, works on corrective action plan**

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An independent audit found that the CNMI was noncompliant with some procurement requirements involving

a U.S. Department of the Interior's award on economic, social, and political development of the territories program, and that it resulted in questioned costs in fiscal year 2019 amounting to \$363,800.

In the government's corrective action plan, the CNMI agreed with Deloitte & Touche's recommendation and states that it will ensure that the responsible personnel will monitor and enforce compliance with procurement requirements.
See AUDITOR on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios sign yesterday the proclamation for Marianas Tourism Month at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

JUSTINE NAUTA



DESPITE ZERO TOURISTS May is still Tourism Month

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Even though the CNMI has yet to see any tourist, the

Marianas Visitors Authority and the Torres-Palacios administration still pushed ahead and declared May as Marianas Tourism Month, in recognition

of the vital role tourism plays in the economy of the CNMI. Also, while conceding that the planned date to re-open the CNMI's borders to tourism is

a "moving target," the initial idea of a June re-opening has now become "middle part of June to July."

See MAY on Page 4

'Shameful. Unconscionable. Unforgivable'

» **CNMI Labor allegedly ignoring needs of IPI's stranded guest workers**

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) blasted yesterday the CNMI Department of Labor for allegedly ignoring the needs of the stranded guest workers of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

As this developed, the

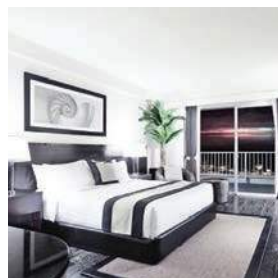


DeLeon Guerrero

House Committee on Gaming chaired by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) agreed yesterday to start sending demand let-

ters by next week to differ-
See SHAMEFUL on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Kensington Hotel Saipan has an array of special choices for this year's Mother's Day.

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NATION

President Joe Biden raised the nation's cap on refugee admissions to 62,500 this year.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Bill and Melinda Gates said that they are divorcing but would keep working together.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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DFEMS/NMC FIRE ACADEMY

Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie Eliptico, seated left, and Department and Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, seated right, sign a memorandum of agreement on Monday that identifies how the agencies will work cooperatively to carry out the DFEMS/NMC Fire Academy. Those who complete the academy will be able to earn college credits that can be used toward the completion of their associate degree.

NMC

Local

Winzy wants IPI's bid to set aside default judgment denied

A general maintenance and repair company that is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to collect on unpaid services has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny IPI's motion to set aside the default judgment in the case.

Winzy Corp., which claims that IPI owes it \$162,925 for contracted services, wants IPI's motion to be denied since IPI failed to provide a supplemental brief and a substantive defense against its claims by

the May 3 deadline, which the court earlier imposed.

Winzy Corp., through lawyer Mark Scoggins, is now asking the court to vacate their May 14 hearing on the dispute as unnecessary and to now set a hearing on Winzy Corp.'s motion for default judgment.

Winzy Corp. sued IPI on Oct. 30, 2020, stating that IPI has not paid it for the supervision and consulting services it provided the Saipan casino. Winzy Corp. maintained that the two parties entered bind-

ing and enforceable contracts where Winzy Corp. "performed under the terms of the agreement in good faith, and in a good and workman-like manner." IPI, however, allegedly did not uphold their end of the contract, and owes Winzy Corp. \$162,925.

If Winzy Corp.'s request for default judgment is approved, the company will be entitled to actual damages, pre- and post-judgment interest, attorney's fees, and other relief. (*Joshua Santos*)

Gray believes IPI hard drives may contain evidence for his racial discrimination suit

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

A former employee of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, who is suing the casino operator for alleged racial discrimination and whose suit has already been granted a default judgment in his favor, now tells the court that his lawyers have obtained two hard drives from IPI that may contain information relevant to his lawsuit.

In court documents his lawyers filed last May 3 in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Gray, who is represented in this case by William M. Fitzgerald and Bruce Berline, states that "there is no reasonable way to connect the data on the drives to plaintiff's discovery requests, other than a document by document review. ... The data is not organized in any such particular matter." As such, Gray de-

clared his support of a motion for the court to lift third-party confidentiality restrictions on the contents of the two hard drives in order to fully go through their contents.

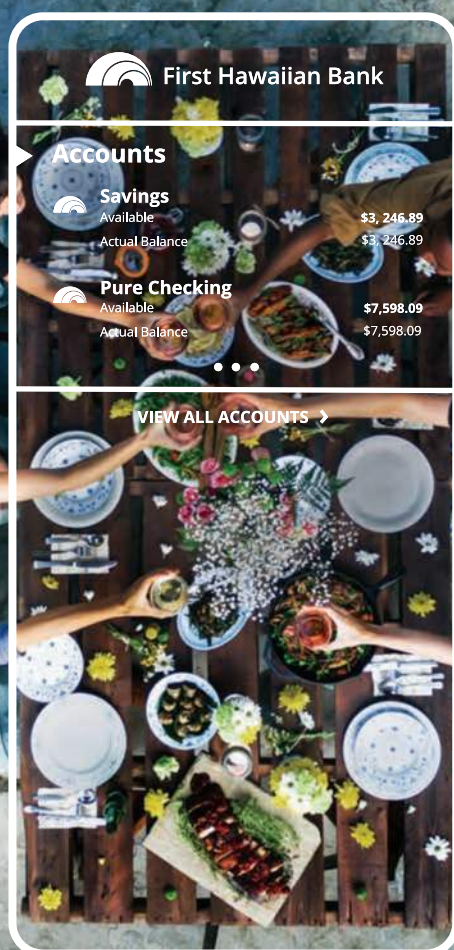
Gray believes the discovery material he has been asking from IPI will support his allegation of racial discrimination. In essence, Gray, who is American, claims that he was replaced at IPI by a foreign, Chinese employee.

According to Gray's May 3 filing, the two hard drives—a 4-terabyte hard drive with 1.03 terabytes of data and a white 2-terabyte hard drive with 97.47 gigabytes of emails respectively—contain unopenable emails of former IPI CEO Mark Brown, password-protected Excel spreadsheets, and emails "that appeared to be confidential such as communications between Phil Tydingco and Mark Brown." Tydingco

is the former general counsel for IPI.

Additionally, Gray states that he discovered a subfolder within one of the drives that revealed "a single 49,000-page report apparently obtained from downloading Kelley Butcher's cell phone." Butcher is a former IPI lawyer.

IPI has violated past discovery orders filed by Gray, namely the order filed on Feb. 4 of this year. At that time, the court ordered IPI to produce the relevant files by March 18. A month later, with IPI still having not fulfilled the discovery order, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered an entry of default against IPI. In essence, as a result of not supplying the relevant documents in time, IPI has to concede and award Gray the appropriate compensation he sought in his lawsuit.



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Projects to revamp main Saipan roads will kick off soon

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

A year after getting many projects started, the CNMI government, through the Torres-Palacios administration, along with other departments,

Santos opposes re-opening Guam-Rota direct flights

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Expressing strong opposition to opening direct flights between Guam and Rota, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) recommends maintaining the current COVID-19 protocols that have been in place since the inception of the pandemic.

In a letter Monday to COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, Santos said that maintaining the current protocols will ensure that the health and welfare of people will continue to be safeguarded.

This comes just as the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention raised the travel risk declaration for Guam from Level 2 to Level 3 due to a recent cluster of positive COVID-19 cases.

Santos told Villagomez that Saipan has the human resources, quarantine facilities, infrastructure, resources and, most importantly, the seasoned experience necessary to handle anything that may arise.

"Let us continue to utilize the system that works and hopefully in the very near future, we can re-open the direct flights without compromising the health, welfare and safety of our people," the senator said.

Santos commended Villagomez and all the front-liners "who have been working tirelessly" to protect the borders and ensure that everyone is complying with safety protocols.

She said the task force has been stellar in reaching out to all stakeholders to make cer-

tain that the dissemination of critical information is relayed and that everyone understands their roles.

The senator noted that the task force's efficiency and effectiveness are evident as the CNMI continues to have one of the lowest numbers of COVID-19 cases in both the U.S. and in the world.

Santos particularly commends quarantine supervisor Jack Sablan and Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel for their "significant and professional roles they continue to perform" every single day.

She also expressed gratitude to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña and all the vaccination personnel who have been implementing the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, most especially on Rota, for the past several months.

The senator noted that the manner in which the program is implemented is well-organized, well-coordinated and works efficiently with all the other affected stakeholders. "No question that all these efforts have made the process run expeditiously smooth and efficiently quick," she said.

Santos also thanked members of the task force, Rota Health Center, Department of Public Safety-Rota, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services-Rota, the Governor's Office of Representative-Rota, and Office of the Mayor of Rota and all those who are helping carry out the program on Rota.

Water outages in San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag

There will be an emergency water service interruption today May 5, 2021, from 8:30am. to 4pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in San Roque, Achugao, and Tanapag.

This is due to the isolation of a 2 1/2-inch service line leak on the entrance to the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and 3-inch service line leak along the road between Esmeralda Drive and Piligro Lane in San Roque. Repairs on the water lines are antici-

pated to be completed today at 4pm. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the waterline repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCoiporation/>). (PR)

School in Chalan Piao to Atkins Kroll Saipan in Oleai and then down to the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

The road from the American Memorial Park to Atkins Kroll will be the first phase of the project, and then the stretch from Hopwood to Atkins Kroll will be the second phase. Palacios did not elaborate on the phases of the road project or how many phases it would take but assured that he wants to see road repairs on every road on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

So far, two or three of five highway road renovations

projects have already been contracted and the projects will start running in mid-May, Palacios said.

"It's been a long time coming. ...We're [able] to look at where the challenges are going to be and then collectively resolved it. I'm very happy that we're well on our way and will move on to the next projects," he said.

The Torres-Palacios administration is working with the Department of Public Works, which will release

more details of the projects next week. Palacios disclosed that the administration is also looking into setting up traffic lights by the Central Park in China Town where the Sugar King Park

is at and in other places that need it.

It was not immediately learned how much will be going into this project, but Palacios assured that it will be federally funded.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) and former Rep. Francisco C.

Aguon (R-Saipan) introduced a House joint resolution that urged DPW to complete road repair projects on Saipan.

HJR 20-1 requested Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and DPW Secretary James A. Ada to reserve \$7.25 million from the Federal Highway Fund in the next three fiscal years—at least \$850,000 in fiscal year 2017, and \$3.2 million each in fiscal years 2018 and 2019—for the architecture and engineering design for the construction of the roads, drainage, and water catchment tanks from Capital Hill to Mt. Tapochau, and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill, including all side roads.



Palacios



Santos

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My Mom & me

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Use the hashtags #saipantribune #mymomandme

Selected posts will be included in the digital version of our special Mother's Day Feature.



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SHAMEFUL

From Page 1

ent agencies and individuals to get documents in connection with their legislative oversight hearing on the governance, financial suitability and compliance failures of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday's committee meeting brought back memories of her time as CNMI Labor secretary when workers also protested against alleged maltreatment by IPI. She said she is extremely alarmed by the lack of participation of CNMI Labor with respect to the workers' needs, whether it's repatriation or recovery of unpaid wages.

The senator noted that local labor regulations do have a provision that they do not have to wait for a worker to come in and file a complaint. As a matter of fact, she said, the department itself can open an administrative case against any employer.

DeLeon Guerrero said this is what is alarming: the lack of participation from the local Department of Labor to enforce employment laws. "We cannot continue to hide behind the issue of COVID-19 situation and pretend like all of these things are not happening before our eyes," she said.



Commonwealth Casino Commission acting executive director Vicente Babauta answers questions raised by members of the House Committee on Gaming chaired by Rep. Edwin K. Propst at yesterday's meeting in the House chamber. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

The senator said it is not acceptable to continue in this kind of a situation to absolutely ignore the situation and abandon the responsibility of the CNMI Department of Labor to address worker issues and concerns.

"Employees' rights must be protected. As a Commonwealth, shame on us. Shame on us for allowing to continue this in the Commonwealth. Shame on department heads who refuse to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero said the CNMI should not let this humanitarian crisis go on. "Shameful. Unconscionable. Unforgivable," said the senator, adding that these workers have to go home to be with their families.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), who is committee vice chair, suggested setting a May 21 due date for the demand letters, and that they

come back to schedule hearings after that. All members agreed.

Propst said noncompliance with the demand letters will be followed by subpoenas.

With regard to the witnesses, Propst said he's still compiling a list and that he will be meeting with each of the committee's members to discuss the list. He said he does not want to say the names right now as he would rather discuss it with the committee members and build from there.

Sablan said the recipients of these demand letters for the documents that they be requesting and potentially for witnesses that they be summoning for hearings would include IPI, the Commonwealth Casino Commission, the Development Plan and Advisory Committee, Department of Public Works, the Commonwealth Lottery Commission, the Office of

sequencing, which helps scientists detect what genetic information is carried in a particular DNA segment.

Last March 19, DPHSS received the first set of results that confirmed that seven of 26 samples were confirmed for the B.1.429 California COVID-19 variant.

In accordance with DPHSS protocol, the travelers were isolated in the government isolation facility, and all close contacts to these travelers were quarantined at the government quarantine facility for 14 days before being transferred into the community.

JIC assures that the results they got back does not provide any evidence of the other variants of concern in Guam. This includes the P.1 Brazil/Japan, B.1.351 South Africa, and B.1.427, a California variant of concern.

CDC changes COVID-19 risk level for Guam

CDC has raised Guam's travel risk level from Level 2 to Level 3, which means the risk of COVID-19 in Guam is high.

In a statement, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said this is a reminder

how to reopen the CNMI, Iakopo said they are currently talking with all of the CNMI's tourism partners in Japan and Korea on how they can safely open tourism.

According to Iakopo, the response from the CNMI's Asian clientele "has been great." She said the clienteles have submitted proposals to MVA on how they can mitigate and provide the protocols for a safe tourism.

"They're actually excited in partnering up with us. We will be having future meetings with the Korean government and how we can possibly establish a travel bubble as currently Korean passengers would have to go back to a 14-day quarantine, if they're not vaccinated in Korea," said Iakopo.

Torres later said in an interview that he is working with MVA, the

that the island must continue to stay vigilant. "While we have achieved our Path to Half goal, it was prudent that we keep our strict quarantine protocols in place to continue to protect our community against this deadly virus and its variants," said Leon Guerrero.

This means that Guam has to continue the practice of wearing masks, washing hands and watching their distance, all while getting vaccinated, said Leon Guerrero. Furthermore, she said, their "fight" against COVID-19 is far from over.

Guam Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio said their work continues as they push forward with "Operation Liberate Guam." Guam's goal is to vaccinate 80% of all eligible persons by July 21 of this year.

"Our administration, public health, the State Surgeon Cell, Guam National Guard, and all our partners are ready to administer these vaccines, but we need the community to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated. Together, we're going to emerge from this pandemic a stronger, healthier, more united Guam," said Tenorio.

Hotel Association of the NMI, tour agencies, and airlines for a safe reopening, but also hoping that the CNMI reaches the 80% herd immunity goal by the time the CNMI reopens tourism.

"However, we're cognizant about the importance of opening, and focused on our herd immunity and vaccination. So, we're hoping that you start middle part of June to July, that's our target date, [but] this is a moving target date," said Torres.

Along with Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and MVA, industry partners participated in the occasion, where the proclamation and calendar of events were read by members of Saipan Southern High School's Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically, or My WAVE Club.

the Governor, the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, and the Department of Labor.

At the meeting, Commonwealth Casino Commission acting executive director Vicente Babauta, who was with several other staff, answered the questions raised by committee members.

IPI interim chief executive officer Ray Yumul attended the meeting, but committee members did not ask him anything.

At the end of the meeting, Propst said they hope that there will be some resolution to the "stranded guest workers" of IPI who will be able to go home if they're paid their wages. Some of the workers attended the meeting.

Propst said these guest workers are not seeking a fortune and some of them are only allegedly owed \$5,000 to \$6,000. "It's really pennies [compared to] what is owed to other large companies. Collectively we're looking at probably \$1 million or a little bit more than that so that they can go home," he said.

Propst said if IPI can't afford this, how can they expect them to pay any of these fines that the Commonwealth Casino Commission has been levying against IPI.

Propst said it is sad to see that has happened with regard to this

once promising casino. He said they cannot put all the blame on CCC's shoulders.

"I think this government has to shoulder a lot of the blame as well. And it's not just the Office of the Governor. That includes the Legislature, includes all leaders who pushed so quickly for an industry that seems to promising, but still had so many questions that remain unanswered," Propst said.

He said many of them, including himself and colleagues at the House who were championing transparency and accountability when it came to dealing with this casino, were pushed aside and blasted.

"And I look today, at the situation where we're at, if we had just listened and wise enough at that time to make the right decisions," the lawmaker said.

Propst said he's confident from what he'd heard with regard to that DPAC report which he cannot wait to see that there were warning signals way back that were ignored.

The DPAC, under the Office of the Governor, was created under the casino license agreement to make a determination on the construction status and timeline for the safe construction and completion of the initial gaming facility and Phase 1 of the integrated resort.

payroll expenditures tested, totaling \$4,243,549 of a total population of \$10,374,347, deficiencies were noted.

Deloitte said for one (or 5%), documents were not provided to demonstrate that competitive procurement was used.

The auditor said this resulted in FY 2019 expenditures and questioned costs in the amount of \$41,334, which represents the purchase order/contract amount.

Deloitte said for one (or 5%) sole source procurement was used and the written justification stated that efforts were made to obtain competition. However, there was no documentation provided to support the assertion, the auditor said.

Deloitte said the purchase order/contract amount was \$1,598,087 and this resulted to in FY 2019 expenditures and questioned costs in the amount of \$322,466.

Deloitte said the CNMI did not enforce compliance with applicable procurement requirements and that questioned costs in the total amount of \$363,800 exist.

In the government's corrective action plan, the Office of Grants Management and the Department of Finance said they received approval from the federal grantor (Office of Insular Affairs) for a transfer of expenses to a business unit for payment of prior incurred expenses by the CNMI government.

In relation to procurement regulation compliance, OGM and the Finance said the grant award did stipulate that procurement regulations must be adhered to; however, as the expenses were initially recorded under previous two business units, the procurement process should have already been completed.

OGM and Finance said the proposed completion date of their corrective action plan is ongoing.

AUDITOR

From Page 1

to include a complete review of procurement files for completeness.

This was some of the findings in the report that Deloitte prepared in its audit of the CNMI government's financial statements as of and for the year ending Sept. 30, 2019. It was the Office of the Public Auditor that hired Deloitte to perform the audit.

In its report dated April 21, 2021, submitted to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Deloitte found several deficiencies in the CNMI's internal control and compliance over financial reporting and major federal programs for the year ending Sept. 30, 2019.

Deloitte also audited the CNMI's compliance with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the CNMI's major federal programs for the year ended Sept. 30, 2019.

One of the deficiencies that according to Deloitte they consider to be material weaknesses pertains to such procurement process involving the U.S. Department of the Interior's grant.

Deloitte said that, in accordance with applicable procurement requirements, procurement transactions shall provide for full and open competition through the use of competitive procedures. For any sole source procurement, a written justification for sole source procurement shall be prepared by the official with expenditure authority. The auditor said the justification shall contain the specific unique capabilities required, the specific unique capabilities of the contractor, the efforts made to obtain competition, and the specific considerations given to alternative sources and specific reasons why alternative sources were not selected.

Deloitte said that, of 20 non-

VARIANT

From Page 1

underlying health conditions was admitted to GRMC and tested positive on arrival. He was later pronounced dead due to COVID-19.

In a separate announcement, Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services said it received last May 3 a set of results from virus samples that were collected in Guam and went through genome sequencing at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CDC reportedly confirmed that three out of four samples tested positive for the B.1.1.7 Variant from the United Kingdom. This variant is considered a more highly transmissible variant of COVID-19. These virus samples came from travelers tested for SARS-CoV-2 at the government of Guam quarantine facility.

According to JIC, the virus samples were collected between January 2021 and April 2021, and a total of 61 SARS-CoV-2 virus samples were submitted to CDC for genome

MAY

From Page 1

In signing the proclamation yesterday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the administration and other partners "have always planned to expedite the process of tourism" since it is the only industry that generates revenue for the island.

Toward this end, a Tourism Resumption Task Force that consist of several tourism stakeholders and government agencies was formed last March 29 to plan how the CNMI will go about reopening the industry, said MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo in a later interview.

Though there is no solid plan on

In addition to PUA, DOL still working on other programs

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Since the COVID-19 pandemic made its way into the CNMI in March 2020, the Department of Labor has been

focusing on pushing out the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance/Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation funds but Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente assures that they are still hands-on with

other programs under their department.

Speaking at the media briefing last Friday, Benavente said DOL is still “still moving on with its current programs.” This includes applying for grants for the Workforce Investment Act, employment service grants, and additional grants that will “help the people get back into the workforce retool to help them upgrade their skills.”

Benavente says through the U.S. Department of Labor Employment Training Administration, they are allowing the CNMI DOL to apply for employment services grants, which they are looking forward to getting these funds to help people get trained.

Currently, Benavente says DOL is working with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to train their cadets. DOL is also in partnership with the Northern Marianas College to help NMC’s summer Nursing Assistant Program, and also working with the Public School System’s Cooperative education program or Co-Op program.

“We’ve done well. Despite the challenges of the pandemic in 2020, we were able to reach out to our businesses in the CNMI and assist them with ensuring that their workplaces are safe from COVID-19,” said Benavente. “I just want to emphasize that DOL is not just about PUA and FPUC;

DOL is also about putting our people in jobs for employment services.”

Other elements of DOL includes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which also has a program that is federally funded. DOL recently completed its review for program year 2020.

PUA/FPUC delay payment clarifications

According to Benavente, the No. 1 problem with delayed PUA/FPUC payments are claimant errors that happen when claimants submit incomplete claims information, or they report incorrect earnings, or they provide incorrect finan-

cial and banking information.

“Considerable amount of time is taken when our adjudicators have to contact the claimant and say, ‘Could you please correct this information,’ ‘Is this your correct account number,’ [or] ‘Are these check stubs accurate,’” said Benavente.

Benavente said 10 months into the program, DOL has managed to collect and halt fraudulent claims and over-payment claims “for a small territory.”

“I’m super proud of this team that has worked so hard to keep this program going and get the benefits out to people who need it,” said Benavente.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCC membership meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is excited to host its May general membership meeting today, Wednesday, May 5, at Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom. Guest speaker for the event is Finance Secretary David Atalig, who will discuss the influx of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds into the CNMI as well as other Department of Finance priorities.

Additionally, the SCC board will introduce the next executive director of the Chamber to the membership.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, RSVP is required to attend the meeting. Also, we are capping our RSVPs at 100 guests. RSVP-ing is a promissory of payment, and invoices will be sent out the afternoon of May 4 to your business. If you RSVP and need to cancel your reservation, email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. **(PR)**

Public warned against box jellyfish

Guam’s Department of Agriculture’s Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Fisheries would like to remind people to be on the lookout for box jellyfish (*Physalia physalis*). Box jellyfish can be found on the beach or in the water, especially on reef flats. Box jellyfish are anticipated from May 5 to 7, 2021. Both box jellyfish and Indo-Pacific man-o-wars can sting even if washed on the beach and dead.

If box jellyfish or Indo-Pacific man-o-wars are seen, notify DAWR Fisheries at (671) 735-0289/91/94 or email fisheries@doag.guam.gov. **(PR)**

Navy trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Sumay Cove and Outer Apra Harbor May 3-7 from 8am to 1pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean May 3-6 from 9am to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13°26’N/145°08’E, 13°42’N/144°36’E.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in South Finagayan May 3-6 from 9am to 11:55pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada May 3-6 from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor May 3-6 from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Apra Harbor May 4 from 7am to 4pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized for this training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor May 4 and 6 from 9am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of the training event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct explosive detonation training on U.S. Naval Base Guam May 4-5 from noon to 4pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training on U.S. Naval Base Guam on May 5 from 9am to 2pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity. **(PR)**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: May 4, 2021 Closing Date: June 4, 2021

POSITION: INVESTIGATOR I
EXAMINATION NO. OPA-21-003

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-022

Installation of Primary Screen

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Primary Screen in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of: the installation of a primary screen (OFI), foundations, sewer piping, sewer valves and valve box, water service, electrical service, water booster pump, basket strainers, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded through Saipan Local Law 20-19.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **April 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-21-022, Installation of Primary Screen**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 27, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Officer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Clinical Laboratory Scientist; Master of Public Health deg (may be foreign equiv); CNMI Health Care Professions license. Plans studies to investigate human disease, preventive methods & treatments for disease at hospital located in the CNMI. Conducts research, analyze data & present findings. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Clinical Laboratory Technicians; Bach deg in Medical Technology (may be foreign equiv); CNMI Health Care Professions License. Performs routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment & preventive of disease at hospital located in the CNMI. Conducts chemical analysis of body fluids to detect abnormalities or disease. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Hemodialysis Technicians; Bach deg in Nursing (may be foreign equiv); CNMI Health Care Professions License. Performs routine medical tests for the diagnosis, treatment & prevention of disease at hospital located in the CNMI. Recognizes & acts accordingly to complications related to hemodialysis. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Infection Control Manager; Bach deg in Nursing (may be foreign equiv); 5 yrs exp as Staff Nurse/Registered Nurse; CNMI RN license. Responsible for effective mgmt. & operation of hospital-wide infection prevention & control prog of hospital located in the CNMI. Coordinate’s infection control prog & works with all dept heads. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Licensed Practical Nurses; Bach deg in Nursing (may be foreign equiv); CNMI Practical Nurse License. Cares for ill, injured or convalescing patients in hospital located in the CNMI. Measures & records patients vital signs & provides basic patient care or treatments. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Medical Transcriptionists; Bach deg in Business Admin (may be foreign equiv). Transcribe medical records recorded by physicians & other healthcare practitioners in hospital located in the CNMI. Translate reports to into fully understandable form & prep reports in printed or electronic form for physician review, signature & inclusion in patient records. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Pharmacy Technician, Bach deg in Pharmacy (may be foreign equiv); must be certified in pharmacy technician; must be registered as a pharmacy technician with the CNMI Health Care Professions License Board. Prepares medication & performs duties under the direction of Pharmacist at health clinic located in the CNMI. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

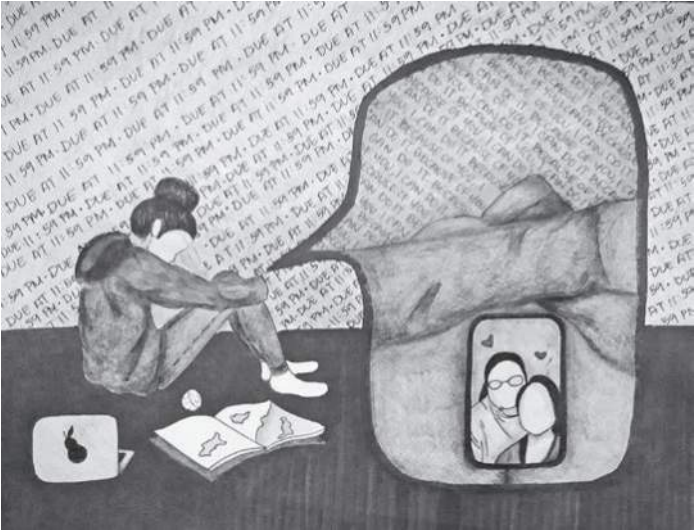
Radiology/X-ray Technicians; Bach deg in Radiologic Technology (may be foreign equiv); CNMI Health Care Professions License. Takes x-rays & CAT scans, administers nonradioactive materials into patient’s blood stream for diagnostic purposes at hospital located in the CNMI. Operates radiologic or magnetic imaging equip. to produce images of the body using radiation safety measures. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950.

Walk, Roll & Wave Against Sexual Violence

Participants in the Walk, Roll & Wave Against Sexual Violence, organized by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, hold a walk and waving campaign on April 30, 2021, at the Garapan Fishing Base. This event was organized to help raise awareness on sexual violence during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. Photos taken from the Facebook page of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. Used with permission.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE





Eleventh grade Simon Sanchez High School student Grace Dela Cruz’s artwork, titled “Connection,” won first place among high school entries in the University of Guam Isla Center for the Art’s “My Light During COVID” student art exhibition.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Seventh grade Untalan Middle School student Averie Asuncion’s artwork depicting “My Light During COVID” won first place among middle school entries in the University of Guam Isla Center for the Art’s annual student art exhibition.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



Fourth grade M.U. Lujan Elementary student Inatan Leon Guerrero Dunn’s artwork depicting “My Light During COVID” won first place among elementary school entries in the University of Guam Isla Center for the Art’s annual student art exhibition.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Students share their ‘Light During COVID’ through art

Public school students throughout Guam have found a light in the darkness of the pandemic, and they are sharing that encouragement with the community through art.

The artwork of 91 students from nine schools is on display in the “My Light During COVID” online exhibition and will be viewable through Friday, May 7, at <https://url.uog.edu/islaexhibit>.

The online exhibit replaces the annual Isla Art-a-Thon, which has been hosted by the UOG Isla Center for the Arts since 1997 as a fundraiser for art programs in schools and the Isla Center. The exhibition eliminated the fundraising component for this year but re-

mained an outlet to encourage young artists and enrich the community with their work.

“We knew that we needed to shift and adapt in order to fulfill our mission of exhibiting art for the community. However, through the challenges, we found opportunities—to provide an outlet for our young artists to share how they have been coping and also to potentially share their expressions of art with a global audience in a virtual environment,” said Velma Yamashita, coordinator of the Isla Center for the Arts and an associate professor of art.

The exhibit also includes a series of short art tutorials created by UOG art students. The

how-to videos walk viewers through the processes of drawing a face, creating cartoon animal characters, and creating papier-mâché clay, while others teach the basics of color theory, shading, and light.

The art pieces of the following students were selected as the top submissions:

Best in Show: Linzy Del-fin, 10th Grade, Simon Sanchez High School

Elementary School:

1. Inatan Leon Guerrero Dunn, 4th Grade, M.U. Lujan Elementary School
2. Savannah Quidachay, 5th Grade, Daniel L. Perez Elementary School
3. Grayson Acfalle,

2nd Grade, Marcial Sablan Elementary School

Middle School:

1. Averie Asuncion, 7th Grade, Untalan Middle School
2. Ja’ana Owen, 7th Grade, Untalan Middle School
3. Hailey Munoz, 7th Grade, Untalan Middle School

High School:

1. “Connection” by Grace Dela Cruz, 11th Grade, Simon Sanchez High School
2. “Strength in Hands” by Abigail Lubong, 10th Grade, Simon Sanchez High School
3. “Mind Over Matters” by Cody Villegas, 12th Grade, Simon Sanchez High School (*UOG*)



PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF-089
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“TWO (2) SEPARATE OFFICE SPACE ONE SITUATED ON GROUND FLOOR FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-090
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS “F” PICK-UP TRUCK (1 CIF ROTA) (1 CIF TINIAN) & PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS “I” SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


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/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
DPS COMMISSIONER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Board Meeting is scheduled on Friday, May 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes (January 7, 2021, January 20, 2021, and February 26, 2021)
- e. Election of Officers

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a. Divisional Updates

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CDBG-DR Updates

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Personnel Matters
- b. Return and Reallocation and Reduction in Units – Isa Villas II

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL’S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Biden's plans are ambitious but risky

In his speech to Congress, President Joe Biden declared his ambitions for a country on its way back from the COVID-19 pandemic. "Now, after just 100 days, I can report to the nation: America is on the move again," he said. "Turning peril into possibility. Crisis into opportunity. Setback into strength."

Barely three months into his presidency, Biden outlined his third huge fiscal proposal—a package of nearly \$2 trillion to be spent over 10 years on child care, education, paid leave and expansions of the earned-income and child tax credits. This comes on top of the \$1.9 trillion pandemic-relief law already passed by Congress and the president's \$2.3 trillion plan for new spending on infrastructure.

By any standard, this is an extraordinarily bold agenda. Is it affordable? And is it wise?

Biden's intentions are admirable. He's right to prioritize opportunity for the poor and disadvantaged—a consistent theme. He's also right to match long-term spending increases with plans to raise taxes, because most of these outlays, however desirable, won't pay for themselves. And it makes sense, as Biden proposes, to target those best able to afford it, hence pushing back against the trend of worsening economic inequality. In particular, he proposes roughly doubling the top rate of tax on capital gains and dividends to 43.4% (including the 3.8% Medicare tax introduced by President Barack Obama).

These goals are worthy—but Biden's blizzard of proposals nonetheless gives cause for concern.

Spending on such a scale without waste is a bigger challenge than the president appears to think. And when it comes to taxes, the promise that the richest 0.3% will pay for everything is implausible bordering on dishonest. The danger is that the gains for the intended beneficiaries will be less than hoped, and the substantial cost won't in the end be confined to a sliver of people at the top.

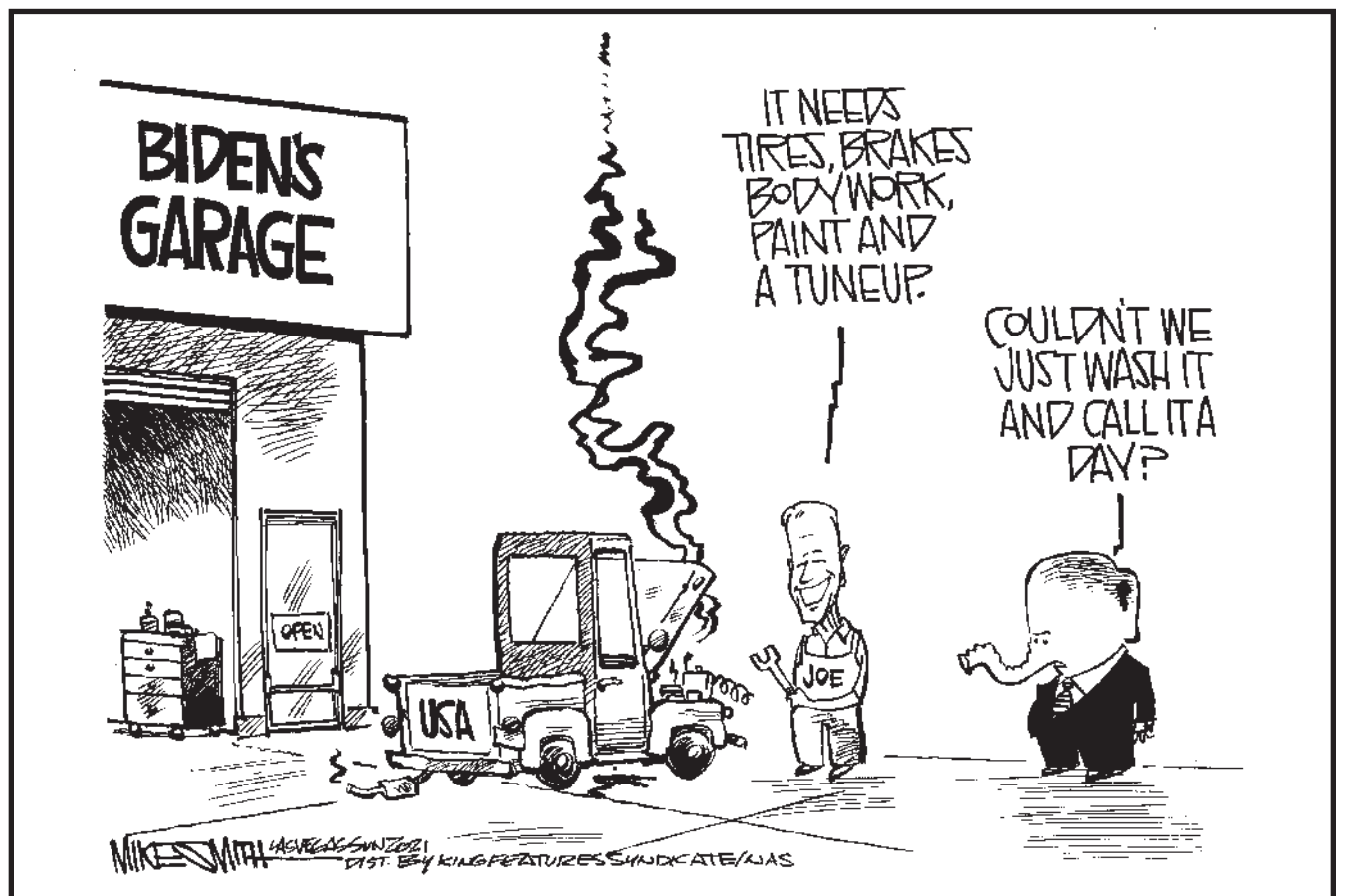
Value for money in public spending demands minute attention to detail. Promises to spend half a trillion here and half a trillion there suggest the outlay is itself the purpose—the bigger, the better—when the goal ought to be what the spending will buy, preferably at least cost. It's worth noting that many aspects of Biden's plans are actually expensive by design, for instance requiring federal contractors to pay higher-than-market wages, strengthening the bargaining power of organized labor, and raising new import barriers.

Done right, spending on infrastructure can boost private investment and growth; done wrong, it builds bridges to nowhere. Universal access to broadband internet is eminently desirable; it might be achieved economically and efficiently, or at inordinate cost. Two years of tuition-free community college could mean expanded training in skills demanded by employers, hence higher incomes and faster growth; or it could cause delayed entry into the labor force with loss of wages and no offsetting benefit. With so many American schools failing their students, fixing K-12 education is a more compelling priority.

In all these areas, management is everything. "Think of a number and double it" isn't good fiscal policy.

Biden's plans to pay for it all are problematic, too. The em-

See **BIDEN** on Next Page



Which vaccine did you get? It's a fraught question

In matters of human affairs, there is little stranger than our tendency to draw fine distinctions of style and status where none are needed. We do it with hats, with indie rock groups, with preschool programs and, now, with vaccines.

I have observed a growing divergence of perceptions for what is essentially a mundane scientific and medical device. As I resume my in-person social life, I have been struck by how often the question arises: "So which vaccine did you get?"

My survey of the cultural vaccine landscape in the U.S. includes the four major vaccines—from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

Pfizer, distributed by one of the largest U.S. pharmaceutical firms, is the establishment vaccine. Since it initially had a significant "cold chain" requirement, it was given out at established institutions such as big hospitals and public-health centers with large freezers. It is plentiful, highly effective and largely uncontroversial.

Moderna—the very name suggests something new—is the intellectual vaccine. The company had no product or major revenue source until the vaccine itself, so it is harder to link Moderna to "Big Pharma," which gives it a kind of anti-establishment vibe. Note also that the last three letters of Moderna are "rna," referring to the mRNA technology that makes the vaccine work. It is the vaccine for people in the know.

Moderna was also, for a while anyway, the American vaccine. It was available primarily in the U.S. at a time when Pfizer was being handed out liberally in the U.K. and Israel. As a recipient of two Moderna doses myself, I feel just a wee bit special for this reason. You had to be an American to get my vaccine. Yes, the European Union had also approved it, but it failed to procure it in a timely manner. So the availability of Moderna reflects the greater wealth and efficiency of the U.S.

Then there are the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

AstraZeneca, for better or worse—mostly worse—has become the forbidden vaccine, or at least the exotic vaccine. It has not received an emergency-use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and maybe never will, in part because it has been associated with some incidents of blood clotting in women. Yet for most people it is entirely safe and effective.

If you got it, you can claim to be daring and cosmopolitan, since you were and maybe still are living abroad. Just as a character in a Henry James novel might have superior knowledge of Venice, you know things about the world that most Americans don't.

That leaves Johnson & Johnson, whose place in the cultural vaccine landscape is shifting. At first, getting the J&J shot showed you were serious but also nonchalant about the pandemic: One and done. It was something you could do on your

By **TYLER COWEN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog *Marginal Revolution*. His books include *Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*.



lunch hour, a bit like running to the CVS to buy extra shampoo. Getting the J&J vaccine was just taking care of business.

The brand itself—best known for baby powder—suggests something normal, not panicky. Eventually, J&J became a socially responsible version of a subtle form of COVID denialism. You weren't making a big deal of things, but at the same time you were ensuring you were not endangering your loved ones.

All that changed last week, when the FDA recommended that the use of the J&J vaccine be suspended following the development of blood clots in a few (very few) recipients. Its reputation probably will never recover, even if use is resumed soon, as currently seems likely.

So J&J may evolve into the outlaw vaccine: Not outright prohibited in the U.S., like the AstraZeneca, but like that vaccine associated with toughness and daring. Maybe, if more men and fewer women take it, it will become the manly vaccine.

Of course, Americans don't always have much choice about which vaccine they get, unless they are willing to wait or engage in costly travel, so it's not as if everyone can decide which team they want to join. Even more fundamentally, it is not clear that these distinctions do us any good.

The more culturally complicated the vaccine decision, the easier it will be to find reasons not to get a vaccine. As it currently stands, more than 40% of Republicans say they do not wish to be vaccinated, and Black Americans are hesitant as well. To the extent vaccines turn into markers for a cultural club, vaccine hesitancy may persist.

It might be better, all things considered, if vaccines were viewed more like paper clips—that is, a useful and even necessary product entirely shorn of cultural significance. Few people refuse to deploy paper clips in order to "own the libs" or because they do not trust the establishment. They are just a way to hold two pieces of paper together.

To be clear, the primary blame here lies with those who hesitate to get vaccinated. But behind big mistakes are many small ones—and we vaccinated Americans, with our all-too-human tendency to create hierarchies for everything, are surely contributing to the mess.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Point: Americans' trust in media is broken; here's how to fix it

By **CARRIE SHEFFIELD**
INSIDESOURCES.COM

Americans' trust in the national news media is low and getting worse. Mainstream journalism has lost the respect of much of the public, though soul-searching and changes by the industry could reverse this trend.

A new study by Media Insight Project funded by The Associated Press and the University of Chicago found bedrock journalism values are respected less by much of the general public than other competing moral values. For example, the study reported that "people who put more emphasis on authority and loyalty tend to be more skeptical about fundamental journalism principles." A mere 11% of Americans fully support all five of the journalism values tested. The study advises journalists to rethink how they frame their content to better resonate with broader audiences.

This new study doesn't surprise conservatives like me at all. A Gallup public opinion survey of Americans' trust in institutions released near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic found eight of the nine institutions studied received a majority positive ratings—led by U.S. hospitals, with 88% approval. The media ranked dead last, and only the media received more negative than positive marks.

Tracking the nosedive in the media's reputation, Gallup's editor in chief Mohamed Younis told me that Gallup polling in the time of President Richard Nixon's impeachment showed 70% of Americans had confidence in the honesty of the media, yet today, only 40% of Americans say the same. Gallup has tracked a general decline in trust, but the drop is most pronounced among Republicans. When we spoke, Younis said 41% of independents approve of the media's work during the COVID-19 crisis, compared to 68% of Democrats but just 16% of Republicans.

A 2018 poll by Monmouth University found 77% of Americans believe that traditional media outlets publish fake news, an increase from 2017, when 63% of respondents said the same. Journalists would be wise to understand that a stunning 65% of Americans, according to Monmouth, said fake news applies to how media outlets make editorial decisions, while just 25% said fake news applies solely to media outlets spreading inaccurate information.

That means the term "fake news" is a much broader concept for most Americans than just misreporting facts—it has to do with newsrooms' value judgments about what to publish and air. Conservatives often feel as though the media refuses to give full context and equal representation of conservative people and ideas—this is what many people mean when they say "fake news."

In 2020, Monmouth also found that 76% of

Republicans believed social media giants—which give millions of dollars to news outlets to create content and are widely responsible for spreading news media stories—could be held liable for bias in handling user content. The study found that then-President Donald Trump's executive order to examine how social media sites could be held liable for bias was supported by 46% of independents and just 16% of Democrats. This vast discrepancy in how Republicans vs. Democrats view social media bias suggests news organizations should think carefully about how their partnerships with tech firms lead some audiences to feel they are being treated unfairly.

Part of the media's value gaps can be explained by data from Pew Research, which in 2004 surveyed more than 500 reporters and editors. It found 34% of those in the national media identified themselves as liberal, but only 7% conservative. This contrasted with the 20% of the general public who described themselves as liberal and 33% as conservative. A 2014 survey by Indiana University found that only 7.1% of journalists called themselves Republicans, but 28.1% self-identified as Democrats. Are most journalists aware of this lopsided worldview among their ranks?

Part of journalists' blind spots could stem from what another Pew study found: Americans from the Midwest and South—which generally have more conservative social mores—are severely underrepresented in online journalism. Pew's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data found workers from the South make up 37% of all American workers but just 21% of internet news publishing and broadcasting workers. And Midwestern workers comprise 22% of the American workforce overall but just 10% of online journalists.

Beyond the digital newsroom, more broadly speaking, one in five U.S. newsroom employees live in New York, Los Angeles or Washington, D.C., yet those three cities are home to only 13% of all U.S. workers, according to Pew.

Progressives in the media these days speak of "equity" and "inclusion," but the question is whether they'll include better ideological diversity in their work moving forward. America's national unity depends upon it.

Carrie Sheffield is a senior fellow at Independent Women's Forum. She served as national editor for Accuracy In Media tackling media bias. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Counterpoint: The path to restoring journalism as a pillar of our democracy

By **YOSEF GETACHEW and JONATHAN WALTER**
INSIDESOURCES.COM

Dorothy Butler Gilliam, the first Black woman reporter at The Washington Post, said in 2019, "When journalists are being called 'an enemy of the people,' and Black women reporters, and other reporters, are being called names and treated with such disrespect, I think it's just so important to remind people of the importance of the media."

Robust, quality journalism, particularly at the local level, is undoubtedly critical for a functioning democracy. It supports civic engagement and provides communities with vital information on issues such as health care, public safety and economic development. Journalism provides the tools necessary for a well-informed public and sustainable self-government.

Unfortunately, journalism today is unable to meet the civic information needs of our nation's communities. This is not particularly surprising given that journalism has been

facing a decline for years. Waves of media consolidation has led to newspapers laying off nearly half of their employees since 2008. Hedge funds, who own controlling stakes in local and regional newspapers across the country, have implemented cost-cutting strategies that have significantly di-

minished newsrooms. Thousands of communities now live in news deserts—places with little to no access to local news.

Despite the diversity that makes up our nation's communities, there are still significant gaps in what news stories the media covers and what issues are presented as part of our civic discourse. This is directly tied to the abysmal rates at which women and people of color own broadcast stations. A media ecosystem where women and people of color are not present in programming, newsroom jobs and ownership rates cannot truly capture the needs and interests of all communities.

Infotainment has also diminished the quality of journalism today. Take the media's coverage of Donald Trump's candidacy in 2016 for example. Modern journalism's emphasis on "horserace coverage" over issue-based reporting let then-candidate Trump receive nearly \$2 billion in free media. At least one executive claimed the constant coverage of Trump was profitable for his media company. In many cases, excessive commercialization

of media has replaced in-depth, investigative journalism.

Thankfully there are solutions to revitalize journalism to meet our civic information needs.

For starters, Congress can fund journalism that puts real dollars behind local media, and community, and public media of all kinds. Funds should be targeted at preserving newsrooms and reporting jobs at local commercial and nonprofit news outlets, and investments to address the civic-information needs of communities most affected by the long-term decline of local news.

Getting immediate funding for traditional news organizations is just a short-term solution, however. We also should be thinking long term about how journalism can meet the civic information needs of our communities in the 21st century.

In 2011, the FCC published a report making recommendations on how the information needs of communities can be met in a changing media landscape. A decade later, a lot has changed. While consolidation and news deserts have only grown worse, social media platforms are now dominating the advertising market, making the ad-driven business model for journalism unsustainable. Further, while more than 80% of people get their news online, we continue to lack a model for robust, independent online news, particularly at the local level. Policymakers need to take a fresh look at identifying what the information needs of our communities are today in the current landscape and make recommendations for sustainable, robust journalism.

The FCC can also take steps under its purview to support local journalism, fulfilling its public interest mandate to ensure our media ecosystem reflects our values of localism, competition and diversity. It can start by strengthening media ownership rules and promoting ownership diversity. Instead of rubber-stamping every merger that comes knocking on its door, the agency should exercise the authority it has been given by Congress and stop the tidal wave of consolidation that has occurred over the past two decades.

The challenges to our current media landscape are multi-layered that require bold solutions. In order to revive journalism as a pillar of our democracy, we need a vibrant ecosystem with diverse and independent voices, investigative reporting that holds power accountable, and robust reporting that can meet the information needs of our communities today.

Yosef Getachew is the media and democracy program director and Jonathan Walter is the media and democracy program fellow at Common Cause, a nonpartisan advocacy organization based in Washington. They wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Question:
How should
we restore
trust in the
media?

BIDEN

From Page 8

phasis on squeezing the rich has led the administration to propose sharp increases in taxes on capital. Economists are divided on what this will mean for saving and investment, but such a big increase would leave the U.S. as an outlier among rich countries. At the very least, it's a gamble.






It's also unclear how much revenue these increases would yield. Again, it depends on the details. Biden's proposal would,

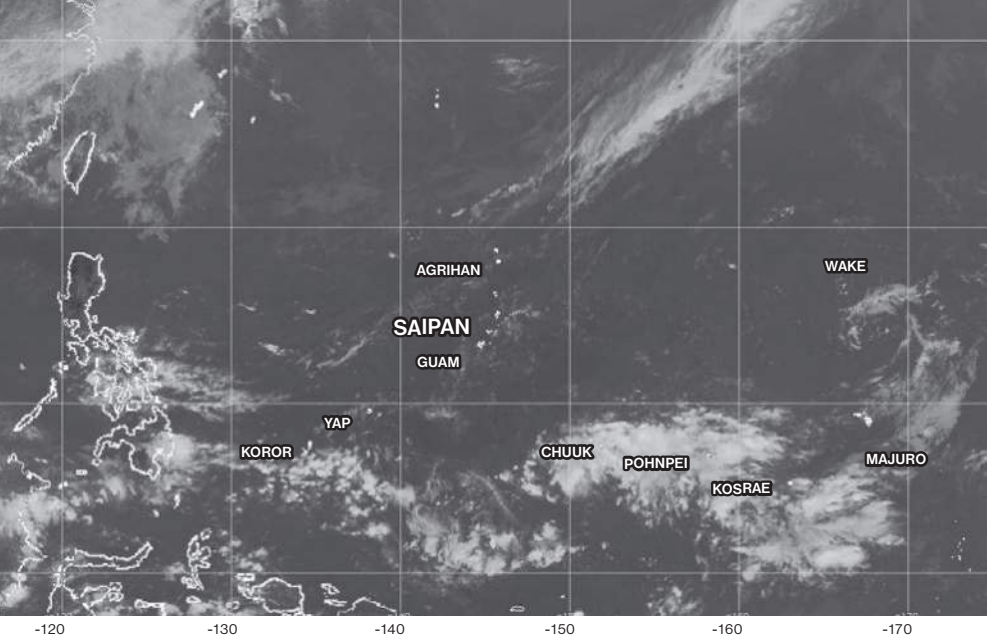
it's true, narrow the opportunities for the rich to avoid tax. (Unifying the top rates on earnings and capital gains would close the so-called carried-interest loophole, for instance.) But while tax avoidance would be harder, the return on tax avoidance would be very much bigger. America's vastly complex tax system isn't lacking in other opportunities, especially for people rich enough to deploy the necessary resources. If the yield turned out to be lower than the administration predicts, the promise to transform America solely at the expense of the wealthy would be hollow.

Biden's incautious ambition has one further drawback. It abandons hope of reaching consensus on aspects of fiscal policy

where, even now, it might still be possible. Many Democrats think that seeking agreement with Republicans is pointless, merely a formula for delay and paralysis. But they ignore that modest-seeming steps sustained from one administration to the next are more supportive of growth and innovation than a policy pendulum that swings from one extreme to the other every four years. Instability breeds uncertainty, suppressing investment and growth. It's much too soon to give up on bipartisanship—and it's a shame to see Biden, of all people, throw in the towel.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Steady east trade winds, partly cloudy skies and isolated showers prevail. Buoys show combined seas of 6 feet with virtually all energy from the east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87	80 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87	78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	83	72 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87	80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85	78 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86	80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85	81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:40 AM	1:24 PM	-
Thursday	2:22 AM	2:15 PM	-
Friday	3:00 AM	3:04 PM	-
Saturday	3:36 AM	3:51 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	4:37 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	61	49 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88	60 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82	76 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	85	73 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	62	45 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	82	60 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93	81 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	57	45 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85	75 °F
New York	Sunny	74	52 °F
Osaka	Sunny	77	60 °F
Paris	Cloudy	62	43 °F
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	79	47 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70	50 °F
Salem	Cloudy	63	52 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	74	56 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	84	52 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	72	51 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	78	56 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:01 AM	High Tide	1.90	
10:04 AM	Low Tide	1.15	
2:27 PM	High Tide	1.51	
9:30 PM	Low Tide	0.29	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable

1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Kensington Hotel gives moms lots of love

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's that time of the year again when mothers are given special attention and love. Kensington Hotel in San Roque has an array of special choices to lavish and spoil mothers, wives, aunties, and sisters who are mothers to show how much you care not only on Mother's Day but every day.

According to Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung, Kensington Hotel prepared memorable gifts for the families to celebrate their mothers this coming weekend. "First, we have the 'Give your Mother A long Deserved Staycation' where families can enjoy the most luxurious and unique island-style staycation. We have different staycation



Relaxing De Luxe Room is one of the rooms available for Mother's Day staycation at Kensington Hotel in San Roque.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

unforgettable dishes that's a delight on the palate. "Loria is one of the finest restaurants on the island. Just bring mom and we will do the rest. Starting from 11:30am, Loria's executive chef will have the signature main dish ready, followed by nine kinds of A La Minute Buffet, special seafood station, desserts, and special sweets for mothers. Unlimited champagne, mimosa, beer, and soft drinks are included," Hung said.

"Luxury shopping is also an option for families this weekend as our Luxury boutique will be open from

May 8 to 9 and a special sale dedicated for Mother's Day will be open to everybody. A wide range of products will be available from Gucci, Prada, Dior, Fendi, prestige brand Mandarina Duck, and other items are on sale with up to 50% discount," Hung added.

To cap off the perfect Mother's Day weekend, a special rose "Thank you cake" will be given to mothers and room reservation is encouraged two days prior intended stay.

For more information, call (670) 322-3311 (from 8am to 5pm) or visit bit.ly/KensingtonMothersDay.

For more information,
call (670) 322-3311
(from 8am to 5pm)

US fights new deadline for rare plant protections in Nevada

RENO, Nev. (AP)—The Biden administration says a U.S. judge exceeded his authority when he gave federal wildlife officials a May 21 deadline to decide whether to formally propose endangered species protections for a rare desert wildflower at the center of a fight over a proposed lithium mine in Nevada.

Lawyers for the Interior Department filed an emergency request in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas last week asking Judge James Mahan to reconsider his order regarding the fate of the only Tiehm's buckwheat plants known to exist in the world—about 220 miles (354 kilometers) southeast of Reno.

The department says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to comply with the order to reach a finding by May 21 on whether the flower should receive protections under the Endangered Species Act.

But it says it will be impossible to decide by then whether to designate critical habitat that conservationists want for the plant in an area where Australian mining company Ioneer Ltd. wants to dig for lithium and boron. The mine would help feed growing demand for lithium driven primarily by electric car batteries.

The judge on Friday granted

the government's request to block his order until he can rule on the merits of the arguments. Mahan ordered the Center for Biological Diversity, which sued over the plant, to respond by Tuesday and the government to reply by Thursday. He expects to issue a formal ruling on May 17.

The Fish and Wildlife Service was supposed to decide last October whether to list the plant as endangered. It had said staff and budget constraints would prevent it from deciding until Sept. 30, 2021. Environmentalists first petitioned for the listing in 2019.

Mahan said in his April 21 ruling that "more than enough time has passed" to complete the required yearlong review.

"By its own admission, FWS has violated the ESA by failing to issue a timely 12-month finding as to whether it intends to list Tiehm's buckwheat as an endangered species," he wrote. "This court finds no reason to grant additional time for FWS to make its admittedly overdue finding."

Patrick Donnelly, the Center for Biological Diversity's Nevada director, said the government's emergency motion is its latest attempt to stall while it tries to reach a conservation agreement with Ioneer. He said wildlife officials are

"spending more energy fighting our litigation than they are protecting" the plant.

"They have the gall to claim that their appeal of a ruling they consider unfavorable constitutes an emergency, while Tiehm's buckwheat is out here hanging by a thread, with Ioneer's destructive mine looming over it," he said.

Government lawyers said in the emergency motion last week that Mahan's order requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to effectively skip a step in the listing process—the completion of a 12-month finding—and immediately proceed to another step—proposed rules—without first determining whether it's warranted.

"Not only does this put the cart before the horse, but it also constrains FWS's discretion to only one substantive outcome at the 12-month finding stage—i.e., listing is warranted," the motion says.

Government attorneys said that while it is possible the Fish and Wildlife Service may ultimately reach that outcome "based on its review of the best available science," the Endangered Species Act "provides for three possible outcomes" after the yearlong review and gives the agency the power to make that choice "based on its own expert expert judgment."

packages for that will fit every family to fulfill a memorable staycation with mom," she said.

"If guests book and check-in on Mother's Day, they will get a special discount for Sunday Brunch and a special Mother's Day cake available at OHAS," she added.

"Happy Mother's Day Brunch" will be at Loria Restaurant which opened July last year and continuous to serve



BEA CABRERA

Expect freshly baked special Mother's Day cakes that are available for guests and regular customers at OHAS.

Treasury announces plans to borrow \$463 billion this quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Treasury Department says it expects to borrow \$463 billion in the current April-June quarter and \$2.28 trillion for the full budget year, as the government finances continued pandemic relief measures.

Treasury officials announced Monday that the \$463 billion in borrowing for the current quarter represented a significant jump from a borrowing estimate for the current quarter of \$95 billion made in February.

The big increase of \$368 billion was attributed to passage of a \$1.9 trillion support measure that President Joe Biden pushed through Congress in March which provided another round of relief payments totaling \$1,400 per individual plus other support including an extension of emergency

unemployment benefits.

The April-June borrowing estimate follows actual Treasury borrowing of \$401 billion in the January-March quarter and \$597 billion in borrowing done in the October-December period, the first quarter in the government's budget year.

The Treasury on Monday projected a borrowing need of \$821 billion for the July-September quarter, the final quarter of this 2021 budget year.

That would bring total borrowing this year to \$2.28 trillion, a significant amount but down from borrowing last year which totaled \$4.01 trillion.

That borrowing was needed to support an all-time high budget deficit of \$3.1 trillion, a figure that reflected trillions of dollars in government sup-

port provided to blunt the impact of the adverse effects of the pandemic, which forced widespread closures and the loss of millions of jobs.

Private economists are forecasting this year's deficit could hit \$3.3 trillion or more.

Treasury said its estimate of borrowing needs assumes that the government will have a balance of cash on hand of \$450 billion when the current suspension of the government's borrowing limit expires on July 31.

Once the debt suspension expires, the government will have to employ emergency moves to keep borrowing money until Congress passes an increase in the debt limit, something that in the past has promoted partisan clashes over the government tax and spending policies.

STOCK
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
4,175.50	33,964.00	13,741.75
-10.25	-44.00	-48.2
-0.24%	-0.13%	-0.35%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.77	Russian Ruble	75.09
Australian Dollar	1.29	Singapore Dollar	1.33
British Pound	0.7189	South Korean Won	1121.32
Canadian Dollar	1.23	Swiss Franc	0.91
Chinese Yuan	6.47	Taiwan Dollar	27.92
Euro	0.829	Thailand Baht	31.13

Nation

AFTER DELAY BACKLASH

Biden quadruples Trump refugee cap

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday formally raised the nation's cap on refugee admissions to 62,500 this year, weeks after facing bipartisan blowback for his delay in replacing the record-low ceiling set by former President Donald Trump.

Refugee resettlement agencies have waited for Biden to quadruple the number of refugees allowed into the United States this year since Feb. 12, when a presidential proposal was submitted to Congress saying he planned to do so.

But the presidential determination went unsigned until Monday. Biden said he first needed to expand the narrow eligibility criteria put in place by Trump that had kept out most refugees. He did that last month in an emergency determination. But it also stated that Trump's cap of up to 15,000 refugees this year "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest," indicating Biden intended to keep it.

That brought sharp pushback for not at least taking the symbolic step of authorizing more refugees to enter the U.S. this year. The second-ranking Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, called that initial limit "unacceptable" and within hours the White House made a quick course correction. The administration vowed to increase the historically low cap by May 15—but the White House said it probably would not hit the 62,500 Biden had previously outlined.



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden wave as they board Air Force One to depart at the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport, Monday, May 3, 2021, in Newport News, Va. AP

In the end, Biden returned to that figure.

Biden said he received additional information that led him to sign the emergency presidential determination setting the cap at 62,500.

"It is important to take this action today to remove any lingering doubt in the minds of refugees around the world who have suffered so much, and who are anxiously waiting for their new lives to begin," Biden stated before signing it.

Biden said Trump's cap

"did not reflect America's values as a nation that welcomes and supports refugees."

But he acknowledged the "sad truth" that the U.S. would not meet the 62,500 cap by the end of the fiscal year in September, given the pandemic and limitations on the country's resettlement capabilities—some of which his administration has attributed to the Trump administration's policies to restrict immigration.

The White House insisted

it was unable to act until now because the administration was being taxed by a sharp increase in unaccompanied young migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras arriving at the southern U.S. border, though any link between the border and the government's decision on refugees was not immediately clear. Refugee advocates, including Durbin, accused Biden of playing politics.

Biden said Monday it was important to lift the number

to show "America's commitment to protect the most vulnerable, and to stand as a beacon of liberty and refuge to the world."

It also paves the way for Biden to boost the cap to 125,000 for the 2022 fiscal year that starts in October.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said work is being done to improve U.S. capabilities to process refugees in order to accept as many of them as possible under the new cap. Since the fiscal year began last

Oct. 1, just over 2,000 refugees have been resettled in the U.S.

Travel preparations are being made for more than 2,000 refugees who were excluded by Trump's presidential determination on Oct. 27, 2020.

Refugee resettlement agencies applauded Biden's action.

"We are absolutely thrilled and relieved for so many refugee families all across the world who look to the U.S. for protection," said Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, head of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of nine resettlement agencies in the nation. "It has a felt like a rollercoaster ride, but this is one critical step toward rebuilding the program and returning the U.S. to our global humanitarian leadership role."

Biden has also added more slots for refugees from Africa, the Middle East and Central America and ended Trump's restrictions on resettlements from Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

Some 35,000 refugees have been cleared to go to the United States, and 100,000 remain in the pipeline. Resettlement agencies that closed more than 100 offices during the Trump administration said the cap needed to be raised to unleash resources.

"The way you rebuild capacity is by setting ambitious commitments that signal to domestic and international stakeholders that U.S. leadership is back," said Nazanin Ash of the International Rescue Committee.

FDA expected to OK Pfizer vaccine for teens within week

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to authorize Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for youngsters ages 12 to 15 by next week, according to a federal official and a person familiar with the process, setting up shots for many before the beginning of the next school year.

The announcement is set to come a month after the company found that its shot, which is already authorized for those age 16 and older, also provided protection for the younger group.

The federal official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to preview the FDA's action, said the agency was expected to expand its emergency use authorization for Pfizer's two-dose vaccine by early next week, and perhaps even sooner. The person familiar

with the process, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters, confirmed the timeline and added that it is expected that the FDA will approve Pfizer's use by even younger children sometime this fall.

The FDA action will be followed by a meeting of a federal vaccine advisory committee to discuss whether to recommend the shot for 12- to 15-year-olds. Shots could begin after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention adopts the committee's recommendation. Those steps could be completed in a matter of days.

The New York Times first reported on the expected timing for the authorization.

Pfizer in late March released preliminary results from a vaccine study of 2,260 U.S. volunteers ages 12 to 15, showing there were no cases

of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated adolescents compared with 18 among those given dummy shots.

Kids had side effects similar to young adults, the company said. The main side effects are pain, fever, chills and fatigue, particularly after the second dose. The study will continue to track participants for two years for more information about long-term protection and safety.

Pfizer isn't the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Results also are expected by the middle of this year from a U.S. study of Moderna's vaccine in 12- to 17-year-olds.

But in a sign that the findings were promising, the FDA already allowed both companies to begin U.S. studies in children 11 and younger, working their way to as young as 6 months old.

More than 131 million doses of Pfizer's vaccine have already been administered in the U.S., where demand for vaccines among adults has dramatically slowed in recent weeks.

While younger people are at dramatically lower risk of serious side effects from COVID-19, they have made up a larger share of new virus cases as a majority of U.S. adults have been at least partially vaccinated and as higher-risk activities like indoor dining and contact sports have resumed in most of the country. Officials hope that extending vaccinations to teens will further accelerate the nation's reduced virus caseload and allow schools to reopen with minimal disruptions this fall.

The U.S. has ordered at least 300 million doses of the Pfizer shot by the end of July, enough to protect 150 million people.

Judges hear arguments over contentious Census privacy tool

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—The fight over whether the U.S. Census Bureau can use a controversial statistical technique to keep people's information private in the numbers used for drawing political districts on Monday went before a judicial panel that must decide if the method provides enough data accuracy.

A panel of three federal judges heard arguments on whether the method known as "differential privacy" meets the federal legal requirement for keeping private the personal information of people who participated in the 2020 census while still allowing the numbers to be sufficiently accurate for the highly partisan process of redrawing

congressional and legislative districts. Differential privacy adds mathematical "noise," or intentional errors, to the data to obscure any given individual's identity while still providing statistically valid information.

Because a panel of three federal judges will decide the matter, any appeal of the lawsuit brought by the state of Alabama could go straight to the Supreme Court.

Separately, another lawsuit brought by Alabama over the 2020 census was dismissed Monday at the request of the state. The lawsuit had tried to force the Census Bureau to exclude residents who are in the country illegally from the numbers used for divvying up congressional seats among the states.

Asia



Supporters of Trinamool Congress party chief Mamata Banerjee holding an earlier photograph of her celebrate early lead for the party in the West Bengal state elections in Kolkata, India, Sunday, May 2, 2021. AP

Impact of Indian virus surge spreads to politics

NEW DELHI (AP)—As a catastrophic surge of the coronavirus sweeps through India, the leaders of 13 opposition parties urged the government to launch a free vaccination drive and ensure an uninterrupted flow of oxygen to all hospitals.

Several hospital authorities sought court intervention over the weekend to provide oxygen supplies in New Delhi, where a lockdown has been extended by a week in an attempt to contain the wave of infections.

The New Delhi High Court said it would start punishing government officials if supplies of oxygen allocated to hospitals are not delivered.

“Water has gone above the head. Enough is enough,” it said.

India reported 368,147 new coronavirus cases and 3,417 deaths on Monday—num-

bers that experts believe are vast undercounts because of a widespread lack of testing and incomplete reporting.

The health ministry says it has confirmed 19.9 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, behind only the U.S., which has counted more than 32.4 million. It says more than 218,000 people have died.

On Monday, 24 COVID-19 patients died at a government-run hospital in the southern state of Karnataka amid reports of an oxygen shortage. It was unclear how many died due to a lack of oxygen, but the chief minister ordered an investigation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government has been severely criticized over its handling of the surge, which has pushed India’s already

fragile and underfunded health system to the brink. Massive election rallies organized by his Bharatiya Janata Party and other parties as well as a giant Hindu festival on the banks of the Ganges may have exacerbated the spread, experts said, adding that new variants could also be increasing cases.

Modi’s party on Sunday suffered a resounding election defeat in a key state, West Bengal, failing to dislodge its firebrand chief minister, Mamata Banerjee. It retained power in north-eastern Assam state but lost in two southern states.

While the four states were already stiff election challenges for Modi’s party apart from the pandemic, analysts said the results weaken Modi’s position as surging infections cripple the already fragile health system.

PH protests ‘blocking’ of patrol ships by China

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government has protested the Chinese coast guard’s harassment of Philippine coast guard ships patrolling a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Monday.

It was the latest of dozens of recent protests by Manila’s foreign affairs department, along with increasingly acerbic remarks by the country’s top diplomat and defense chief about Chinese actions in the disputed waters. The high-profile feud has escalated despite President Rodrigo Duterte’s friendly stance toward China.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. used an obscene phrase in a tweet demanding China get out of Philippine-claimed areas. “What are you doing to our friendship?” Loc-

sin asked. “You’re like an ugly oaf forcing your attentions on a handsome guy who wants to be a friend.”

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana rejected China’s demand that the Philippines end its patrols in the disputed region. “While we acknowledge that China’s military capability is more advanced than ours, this does not prevent us from defending our national interests and our dignity as a people with all that we have,” Lorenzana said in a video message late Sunday.

In the latest incident, the Department of Foreign Affairs said it “has protested the shadowing, blocking, dangerous maneuver and radio challenges by the Chinese coast guard of Philippine coast guard vessels conducting legitimate maritime patrols and training

exercises” from April 24 to 25 near Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

Both countries claim the rich fishing area, which China effectively seized in 2012 by surrounding it with its coast guard and surveillance ships after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels.

The department said it also protested “the incessant, illegal, prolonged and increasing presence of Chinese fishing vessels and maritime militia vessels in Philippine maritime zones” in the disputed waters. It said hundreds of Chinese vessels have been spotted by Philippine law enforcement agencies from January to March this year in areas around Scarborough Shoal and Philippine-occupied Thitu Island, which Filipinos call Pagasa.

World

OVER LOCKDOWN EASING ROUTE

UK’s Johnson voices optimism

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Monday there’s a “good chance” that social distancing rules in England will be scrapped on June 21, a potential boon to hard-hit pubs and cinemas.

Johnson told reporters in the north England town of Hartlepool where he is campaigning before a special election on Thursday that the government’s lockdown easing plans remains on track. That’s due to sharp fall in new coronavirus infections—down to below 2,000 a day from nearly 70,000 a day at the peak of the second surge in January—and the rapid rollout of vaccines.

On Monday, the National Health Service delivered its 50 millionth vaccine, with around 52% of the British population having received at least one dose and around a quarter having received two jabs.

“You are seeing the results of that really starting to show up in the epidemiology,” Johnson said.

Under its road map to ease restrictions—which Johnson insists is dependent on “data not dates”—the government is set to lift further restrictions on May 17, such as allowing people to go inside a pub and restaurant and to allow some foreign travel.

On June 21, all other lim-

its on social contact will be potentially lifted, including the rule that requires people to be at least 1 meter (3 feet) away from anyone outside their household, provided other protective measures are in place, such as mask-wearing or meeting outdoors. This is known as the “1 meter-plus” rule.

Johnson said there’s “a good chance” the rule will be ditched beginning June 21.

“That is still dependent on the data, we can’t say it categorically yet, we have got to look at the epidemiology as we progress,” he said. “But that’s what it feels like to me right now.”

Getting rid of the 1 meter-plus rule would change the financial dynamics for Britain’s hospitality and cultural sectors, which have been one of the most hard-hit during the pandemic. Because people can’t sit right next to each other inside or outside, pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theaters can’t host as many people as they used to.

Emma McClarkin, chief executive of the British Beer and Pub Association, welcomed Johnson’s comments, saying they give the sector hope of a return to normality.

“Given pubs are financially unviable under the current restrictions they face, being able to reopen without any

restrictions at all from June 21 is going to be vital to their survival,” she said. “Our recovery only begins when the restrictions are removed.”

Although restrictions on social distancing in Britain may be scrapped, other measures could stay in place. One-way systems, screens and mask-wearing while moving around might remain for hospitality venues.

A spokesman for the U.K. Cinema Association said he hoped the government would not require moviegoers to wear masks.

“We strongly believe that our exemplary record on safety—with not a single case of COVID traced back to a U.K. venue—and our ability to manage the movement of cinema-goers in modern, highly ventilated indoor environments offer ample evidence that any relaxation from June 21 can be undertaken safely without the need for further ongoing restrictions,” he said.

Government figures on Monday showed that the U.K. reported just one new coronavirus-related death, down from over 1,800 in one day in January. Although the daily death toll has plummeted in recent months, the U.K. still has Europe’s highest virus-related toll at more than 127,500 dead.

US and UK reject reports of imminent prisoner deal with Iran

LONDON (AP)—The U.S. and the U.K. dismissed reports coming out of Iran that they are thrashing out a prisoner exchange deal with Tehran that could see the imminent release of a British-Iranian woman, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, and four Americans, among others.

Iran was a key topic of discussions Monday between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his host in London, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab. Their meeting took place a day before the first face-to-face meeting of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrial nations in two years, largely due to the coronavirus pandemic. Iran, Ukraine, China, Russia, climate change and COVID-19 are expected to dominate the talks.

Blinken’s visit to London, his first since being appointed by President Joe Biden, comes amid mounting speculation of a prisoner swap deal with Iran. Such exchanges are not uncommon and were a feature of the

2015 nuclear accord between Iran and the world’s leading powers. Biden has indicated he is looking to restart nuclear talks with Tehran after his predecessor, Donald Trump, pulled the U.S. out of the agreement in 2018.

“The reports coming out of Tehran are not accurate,” Blinken said at a press briefing after their meeting, adding that he had “no higher priority” than bringing all detained Americans home.

“More broadly on this, we have to take a stand against the arbitrary detention of citizens for political purposes,” he said.

Raab also dismissed the prospects of an imminent breakthrough amid reports in Iran that Britain would pay a 400 million-pound (\$550 million) debt to secure Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s release. He insisted that the British government was working “very intensively” on the release of detained British citizens in Iran.

“I would say it’s incumbent on Iran unconditionally to release those who are held arbitrarily and in our view

unlawfully,” Raab said.

In Britain, there’s particular interest in the well-being of Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who was last week sentenced to an additional year in prison on charges of spreading “propaganda against the system.”

The two diplomats discussed an array of subjects, such as sanctions on Russian citizens, climate change and Biden’s decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan later this year, a process that began in earnest over the weekend. Russia and its aggressive actions toward Ukraine were also on the agenda, with Blinken set to travel to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on Wednesday.

Biden is also set to take a new approach with regard to North Korea following a policy review completed last week. Blinken, who met in London with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts earlier Monday, said the new approach will be “practical and calibrated” and urged the leadership in Pyongyang to “take the opportunity to engage diplomatically.”

Good Housekeeping



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Savory S'mores, mushrooms with bacon and blue cheese, made on the grill.

SAVORY S'MORES

Yield: 4 servings

- 8 ounces mushrooms, preferably with large caps
- 1 1/2 ounces blue cheese
- 8 ounces bacon

1. Clean mushrooms and remove the stems. Fill caps with blue cheese and wrap with bacon so the bacon covers the cheese. Secure with a wooden toothpick.

2. Place wrapped mushrooms on a grate over a fire. Cook, occasionally turning carefully with long tongs, until bacon is done. When turning, try to keep melted cheese from dripping out (but don't worry; it will still taste good).

Per serving: 284 calories; 26 g fat; 10 g saturated fat; 45 mg cholesterol; 11 g protein; 3 g carbohydrate; 2 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 466 mg sodium; 61 mg calcium

Recipe by Norma Klingsick

- 1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 cup shredded Mexican blend cheese

1. Place each tortilla on a large piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil and place chicken on half of each tortilla. Top with equal amounts of beans, salsa and cheese. Fold tortilla over and fold foil over tortilla, but do not seal the edges.

2. Place foil packets on the grate over a fire and cook, flipping occasionally, until cheese has melted and tortilla is moderately browned and crisp.

Per serving: 392 calories; 13 g fat; 5 g saturated fat; 68 mg cholesterol; 28 g protein; 40 g carbohydrate; 3 g sugar; 5 g fiber; 821 mg sodium; 311 mg calcium

Recipe by Daniel Neman, adapted from a recipe by cupcakediariesblog.com.

CAMPFIRE FRENCH TOAST

Yield: 4 servings

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 (12-ounce) can nonfat evaporated milk or 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup, plus more for serving
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 8 slices multigrain bread
- 1 cup mixed berries, optional

1. Spray 8 (14-inch) pieces of heavy-duty foil with nonstick spray, or use nonstick foil, and brush the center of each piece with melted butter.

2. Whisk together the evaporated milk, eggs, maple syrup, vanilla and cinnamon in a small baking dish or large resealable bag. If you don't have a whisk, use a fork.

3. Dip both sides of each piece of bread in the milk mixture until fully submerged. Arrange 2 pieces of bread next to each other, without overlapping, on 1 piece of buttered foil. Repeat with the remaining bread and 3 pieces of foil.

4. Make the foil packs: Put the remaining 4 pieces of foil, buttered-side down, directly on top of the bread so the foil touches the bread and the edges line up. Fold and crimp the edges tightly to make 4 rectangular packets.

BACON AND AVOCADO TOAST

Yield: 1 serving

- 2 slices multigrain bread
- 2 strips bacon
- 1 small ripe avocado
- 1 wedge lemon
- Salt and pepper

1. On a grate over a campfire or grill, toast bread on both sides.

2. Place a cast-iron skillet over the fire and cook bacon; watch carefully to keep from burning. Cut avocado in half, remove the pit and scoop out the middle; mash it with a fork in a small bowl. Spread the avocado on one piece of toast, sprinkle with the juice of the lemon and season well with salt and pepper. Top with the bacon and the other piece of toast.

5. Place the packs on a grate over a medium-hot fire and cook about 5 minutes on each side. Cooking time will depend on the heat of the fire and the distance of the packs above the embers, so check for doneness by carefully opening one of the packs (hot steam will escape). The French toast is done when it is browned on both sides and the center is custardy. Keep in the packets or transfer to plates. Top each serving with 1/4 cup of the berries, if using, and more maple syrup.

Per serving: 321 calories; 13 g fat; 7 g saturated fat; 117 mg cholesterol; 13 g protein; 37 g carbohydrate; 16 g sugar; 5 g fiber; 262 mg sodium; 166 mg calcium

Adapted from a recipe by the Food Network

SHRIMP SCAMPI

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons dry white wine or chicken broth
- 1/8 teaspoon (2 large pinches) salt, or to taste
- Pinch crushed red pepper flakes, or to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 1/2 pounds shrimp, shelled
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut into 4 pieces
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

1. In a small bowl, mix together garlic, wine or broth, salt, crushed red pepper, black pepper and lemon juice.

2. Divide shrimp onto 4 large pieces of heavy-duty aluminum foil, and sprinkle evenly with garlic-wine mixture. Top each portion with 1 piece of butter, and sprinkle with parsley. Fold foil over each shrimp mixture and fold edges to seal tightly.

3. Place foil packets on a grate over a fire and cook, flipping occasionally, until done. Cooking time will vary depending on the size of the shrimp and heat of the fire, but remember that shrimp cook quickly. Periodically open a packet to check doneness; shrimp are cooked when they are pink and curled.

Per serving: 268 calories; 13 g fat; 7 g saturated fat; 304 mg cholesterol; 34 g protein; 3 g carbohydrate; 1 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 278 mg sodium; 123 mg calcium

Recipe by Daniel Neman



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bacon and avocado toast, made on the grill.

Per serving: 606 calories; 46 g fat; 11 g saturated fat; 37 mg cholesterol; 17 g protein; 37 g carbohydrate; 5 g sugar; 14 g fiber; 735 mg sodium; 85 mg calcium

CAMPFIRE COOKING: The flames add flavor

By DANIEL NEMAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The last time my Boy Scout troop went on a campout, we ate steak.

I was startled. I was shocked. I didn't know you could do that on a campout. Before that, most of our previous experiences around a campfire somehow involved Spam. We also had a memorable night in which we ate hamburgers with the ground beef stretched by adding bread, which our troop leader informed us was to add flavor.

Our troop leader's name, incidentally, was Norman Bates. Despite sharing a name with the notorious psycho in "Psycho," he was a nice guy. He was so nice, he bought steak for our last campout.

So perhaps my concept of eating around a campfire has been skewed. I always thought it meant Spam, with occasional sightings of hamburger and, on the rarest of occasions, steak. But apparently things have changed in 50 years. Now, some people drive to a campsite in campers equipped with all the comforts of a four-star hotel. Others' tastes have expanded beyond the bounds of hot dogs, hamburgers and Spam to encompass dishes with more creativity in their cooking.

I recently camped out in the wilds of St. Louis' Tower Grove East neighborhood, where I encountered exotic wildlife (squirrels) and experienced the mysterious sounds of nature (the friendly barking of the dogs next door, Florence and Moby).

I also cooked up a mess of chow around the old campfire, which I guess would technically be called a "grill." But still, the recipes will work for campfires, too.

I began, as one does, with breakfast. I made Campfire French Toast, which just may be the best French toast ever. And that's not just because

you get the faintest hint of smoke in your toast (OK, you can't really taste it at all, because it's wrapped in foil), but it's also because the recipe is so stunning. And rich.

Usually, you use whole milk to make French toast, but it can be a hassle to bring milk with you on a camping trip. It's so much easier just to use a can of evaporated milk, which, I see now, has more calories—even nonfat evaporated milk.

But you could use regular milk and still be impressed by this superlative dish, because it also calls for a fair amount of cinnamon and vanilla, plus a bit of maple syrup right in the dipping mixture. These are the magic ingredients that make any French toast better, especially when paired with multigrain bread.

I used the same loaf of bread to make Bacon, Egg and Avocado Toast. Or that's what I would have made if I had remembered the egg. As it was, I made Bacon and Avocado Toast. And that was excellent, too, because of certain irrefutable fact: Bacon tastes better when it's cooked over a fire.

Though it is smoked to begin with, bacon only improves from a little extra fresh smoke from the glowing embers of a campfire. Toast, too, tastes better when cooked directly on the grate over a fire. Don't cook the avocado.

And if you do happen to remember the egg, simply cook it in the pan you used for the bacon. But frankly, the sandwich I made was so good it did not need an egg.

The next dish I made is so obvious I'm embarrassed that I never thought of it before—quesadillas cooked over a fire.

Like the French toast, the secret is to cover it in foil. Once protected from the fiercest heat of the fire, the quesadilla has a chance to warm up slowly until the cheese reaches the ideal state that scientists refer to as "gooey."

You can put anything in a quesadilla, but I stuck to the basics: pre-cooked chicken, black beans, salsa and shredded cheese. When you're cooking over a campfire, you don't want to get too fancy.

Unless you're making shrimp scampi. If you happen to have the ingredients for shrimp scampi at your next campout, you may as well make it. It's actually a simple, unassuming dish, but it is as delicious to eat at a campfire as it is unexpected.

Once again, the key is to use foil. Just divide the ingredients—shrimp, garlic, white wine or chicken stock, butter, red pepper flakes, lemon juice and a bit of salt—into foil pouches, seal the pouches tight and put them on the grate.

Foil, of course, is notoriously non-transparent. And because shrimp are so quick to cook, you'll have to open the pouches a few times to see if they are done.

But this slight effort does not matter, because the results are so worth it: shrimp scampi, on a camping trip. Imagine that.

Naturally, any time spent around a campfire must include s'mores, but I decided to mix things up and make savory s'mores. That is, I stuffed mushroom caps with blue cheese and wrapped them with bacon.

Perhaps you have had dates stuffed with Parmesan and wrapped with bacon. These savory s'mores are a variation on that life-changing idea, and you get the extra benefit of the smoke-enhanced bacon.

Bacon, mushrooms and blue cheese. It's the ultimate appetizer. It's almost worth going camping for.

CAMPFIRE QUESADILLAS

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 flour tortillas, medium size (7 inches)
- 8 ounces cooked chicken (from about 12 ounces raw)

Life & Style

Bill and Melinda Gates announce they are getting divorced

SEATTLE (AP)—Bill and Melinda Gates said Monday that they are divorcing but would keep working together at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the largest charitable foundations in the world.

In identical tweets, the Microsoft co-founder and his wife said they had made the decision to end their marriage of 27 years.

“We have raised three incredible children and built a foundation that works all over the world to enable all people to lead healthy, productive lives,” they said in a statement. “We ask for space and privacy for our family as we begin to navigate this new life.”

Bill Gates was formerly the world’s richest person and his fortune is estimated at well

over \$100 billion. How the couple end up settling their estate and any impact on the foundation will be closely watched, especially after another high-profile Seattle-area billionaire couple recently ended their marriage.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and MacKenzie Bezos finalized their divorce in 2019. MacKenzie Scott has since remarried and now focuses on her own philanthropy after receiving a 4% stake in Amazon, worth more than \$36 billion.

The Gateses were married in 1994 in Hawaii. They met after she began working at Microsoft as a product manager in 1987.

In her 2019 memoir, “The Moment of Lift,” Melinda Gates wrote about her childhood, life and private strug-



In this Feb. 1, 2019, file photo, Bill and Melinda Gates smile at each other during an interview in Kirkland, Wash. AP

gles as the wife of a public icon and stay-at-home mom with three kids. She won Bill Gates’ heart after meeting at a work dinner, sharing a mutual love of puzzles and beating him at a math game.

She also detailed the ways they navigated imbalances in their marriage and parenting journey and noted how working together at the foundation made their relationship better.

“Bill and I are equal part-

ners,” Melinda Gates said in a 2019 interview with The Associated Press. “Men and women should be equal at work.”

The Seattle-based Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is the most influential private foundation in the world, with an endowment worth nearly \$50 billion. It has focused on global health and development and U.S. education issues since incorporating in 2000.

While both are global figures, Melinda Gates has increasingly built her profile as a champion of women and girls. The former tech business executive launched her private Pivotal Ventures investment and incubation company in 2015 and recently partnered with Scott for a newly announced equity challenge.

David Callahan, founder of

the Insider Philanthropy website and author of “The Givers: Wealth, Power, and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age” says it’s too early to know how the divorce will affect the Gates foundation and the wider philanthropic community.

Although the couple say they will continue to work together at their foundation, Callahan suggests Melinda Gates could still pursue her own philanthropic work.

“You can imagine two separate tracks where they’re both working together at the foundation, and each is pursuing their own independent philanthropy outside the foundation,” Callahan said.

He said the possibility of Melinda Gates opening another philanthropic foundation would have a dramatic impact.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Judge orders Kevin Spacey accuser to reveal his identity

NEW YORK (AP)—A man accusing Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey of sexually abusing him in the 1980s when he was 14 cannot proceed anonymously in court, a judge ruled Monday. U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan in Manhattan refused to let the man proceed only as “C.D.” in a lawsuit filed in September in New York state court and later moved to federal court. The man had met Spacey in the actor’s suburban New York acting class before the alleged abuse, according to the lawsuit which seeks over \$40 million in damages. Kaplan said C.D.’s privacy interest does not outweigh the presumption of open judicial proceedings and the prejudice to Spacey’s defense that would occur if he could proceed anonymously. Individuals with information that might support Spacey also would not know to come forward, the judge added.

Jenner says transgender girls in women’s sports is ‘unfair’

LOS ANGELES (AP) —Caitlyn Jenner, the former Olympic champion and reality TV personality now running for California governor, said she opposes transgender girls competing in girls’ sports at school. Jenner, a 1976 decathlon Olympic gold medalist who came out as a transgender woman in 2015, told a TMZ reporter on Saturday that it’s “a question of fairness.” “That’s why

I oppose biological boys who are trans competing in girls’ sports in school. It just isn’t fair. And we have to protect girls’ sports in our schools,” Jenner said Saturday during a brief interview in a Malibu parking lot. It was Jenner’s first comment on the controversial issue since announcing her candidacy to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom in a recall election. Five states have passed laws or implemented executive orders this year limiting the ability of transgender youths to play sports or receive certain medical treatment. There’s been a vehement outcry from supporters of transgender rights. Jenner, a Republican, supported Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election but later criticized his administration for some discriminatory actions against transgender people. Many transgender-rights advocates have criticized Jenner, saying she has failed to convince them that she is a major asset to their cause.

Los Angeles Times hires ESPN’s Kevin Merida as new editor

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Times on Monday said that Kevin Merida, who built ESPN’s The Undeclared into a multi-media presence and spent a lengthy career in newspapers before that, will be its new executive editor. Merida, 64, is being challenged by the newspaper’s owners, Patrick and Michele Soon-Shiong, to speed its transition into a digital news leader. “Kevin possesses a clear understanding of the rigor necessary for indepen-

dent journalism and how to translate that journalism to multiple platforms,” the newspaper’s owners said in a statement. “He also shares our passion for the unique opportunity we have to build the L.A. Times into a media enterprise with a distinct West Coast point of view.” Merida is moving to Los Angeles from Washington, where he spent 22 years at the Washington Post before joining ESPN in 2015. He also worked at the Dallas Morning News and Milwaukee Journal. The Post is searching for its own new leader following the retirement of Marty Baron. Merida replaces Norman Pearlstine, who stepped down late last year.

Eilish, Chalamet, Gorman and Osaka headline fall Met Gala

NEW YORK (AP)—The star power is back. When the Met Gala returns in September, it will feature a heavy-hitting contingent of celebrity co-chairs: Actor Timothée Chalamet, musician Billie Eilish, poet Amanda Gorman and tennis star Naomi Osaka. Honorary chairs for the evening will be designer Tom Ford, sponsor Instagram’s Adam Mosseri, and Vogue’s Anna Wintour. The museum made the announcement Monday on the traditional day of the Met Gala—the first Monday in May. Those plans, of course, were upended by the pandemic. The September 13 gala will be a more intimate affair, to be followed by a larger one on May 2, 2022. Both will launch a two-part exhibition, a survey of American fashion to be on view for almost a year.

Wife discovers man’s secret interest in escorts

DEAR ABBY: I just found out my husband has been looking at escorts in the local area. I know he has watched porn, but that never bothered me. When I confronted him about seeing his search for escorts, he said he just clicked on a link that popped up on a porn site. (I have seen them, so I know it can happen.)

However, I now know he created another email address and joined an escort review site. I can’t say anything to him because I snooped on his phone. I’m heartbroken and want to believe him, but this is too much. Please help me.

NERVOUS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NERVOUS: First things first. Call your doctor and make an appointment to be checked for STDs. Next, because you know your husband hasn’t been truthful, do more “snooping.” Learn everything you can about your family finances (if you don’t already know) – the debts and assets, credit card expenses, bank account numbers, etc.

Once you have that information and there will be no surprises, tell your husband you checked his phone AND WHY YOU FELT THE NEED TO DO IT. Do not allow him to make you feel guilty. Ask him what he is getting from escorts that he isn’t getting from you, and if the only answer he can come up with is “variety,” talk to a lawyer because

your exclusive marital relationship is history.

DEAR ABBY: Our son “Leo,” 24, has bipolar/schizoaffective disorder. He is single, lives 2,000 miles from us and is homeless. He refuses treatment.

I see him about every three months when I go and find him. His relationship with his dad, my husband, is not good. My husband has made many approaches to Leo, but our son rejects him.

My husband told me that when he dies, I should not say anything to Leo, and he wants me to agree on that. I agreed, but I think that is too hard. Do you think my husband is right on that request?

PROBLEM FAMILY IN PUERTO RICO

DEAR PROBLEM FAMILY: Yes, I do. Your husband is being realistic, having made repeated approaches to Leo and being rejected. When he’s gone, your son won’t miss him, so please respect your husband’s wishes if it will bring him peace of mind.

DEAR ABBY: I hosted a dinner party at my home and invited three longtime friends. They had been drinking before they came over and showed up drunk. My husband and I were highly offended and told them to leave. I’m extremely upset about this because I

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



found it very disrespectful. How should I resolve the issue?

INCONSIDERATE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR INCONSIDERATE: You and your husband were certainly within your rights to react as you did. Cross your fingers that your friends were able to return safely to their homes in the condition they were in.

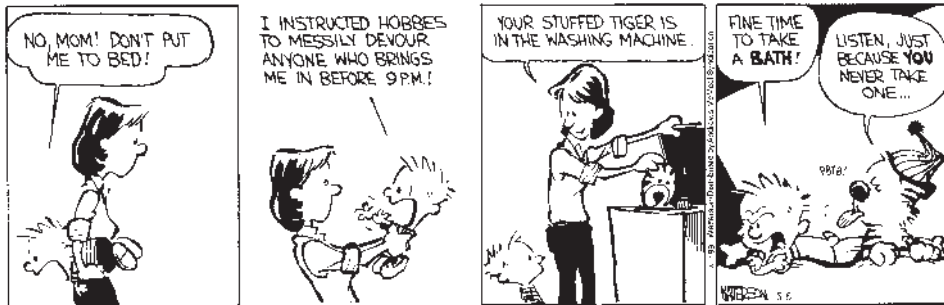
How you should resolve the issue depends upon whether this is the only time it happened. If they aren’t habitual problem drinkers and it was a one-time thing, be forgiving when they call to apologize. However, if you don’t hear from them, there will be nothing to resolve.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

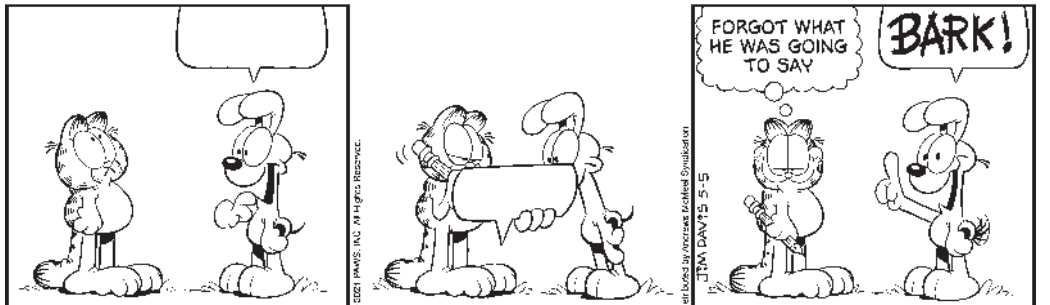
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



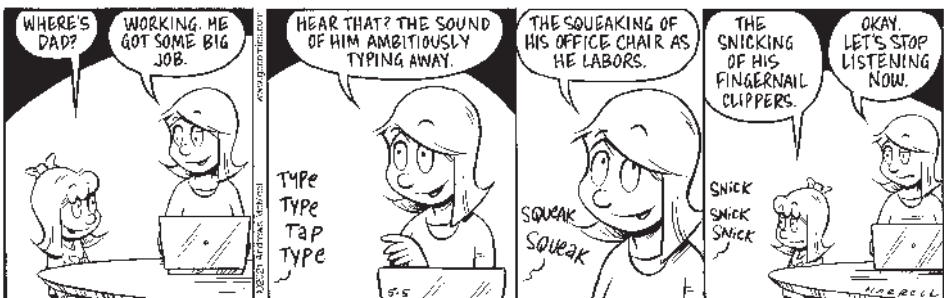
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



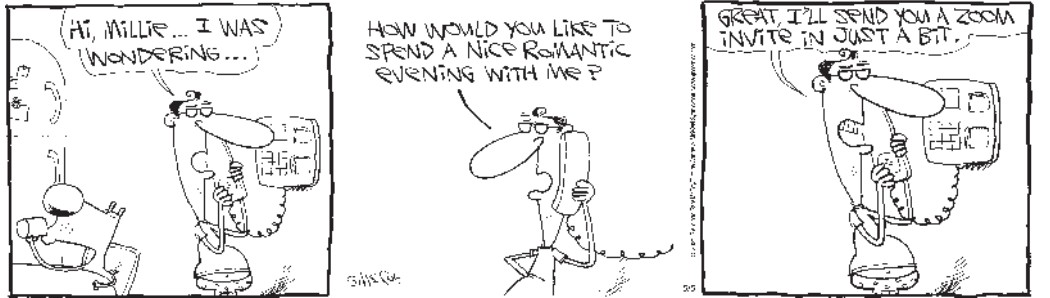
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Frankfurt fellow
5 British rule of India
8 News anchor Smith of CNBC
12 Baseball's Tommie
13 Wyo. neighbor
14 "I did it!"
15 Henry Hudson's ship
17 Bickering
18 Vocally
19 Marsh birds
21 Present
24 Belief
25 Tennis legend Arthur
28 Curved lines
30 ISP giant
33 Tic-tac-toe loser
34 "Terrific!"
35 Playwright Levin
36 Tel. number add-on
37 Pro votes

DOWN

38 Pub orders
39 Ruin the veneer
41 Lectern locale
43 "So long!"
46 Computer malady
50 Reddish horse
51 "Yikes!"
54 Leer at
55 "— had it!"
56 Muscat's land
57 RSVP enclosure
58 Menagerie
59 Barn roof topper

3 Move, in
4 Shelter
5 Carnival city
6 Commotion
7 Actress Fonda
8 Luminares
9 Angry letters
10 Redact
11 Light touches
16 1501, in Roman numerals
20 Heart of the matter
22 Cab cost
23 Tire pattern
44 Meditative practice
45 Brainiac
47 Capital of Italy
48 — Bator
49 "Auld Lang —"
52 Egg (Pref.)
53 Zodiac cat

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	L	B	A	S	E	A	R	S
L	I	E	N	E	L	I	X	M
F	U	N	K	I	E	S	T	O
C	A	R	K	A	I	D	S	
L	U	N	A	F	L	N	F	E
E	O	C	A	T	O	S	P	I
F	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	T
R	O	T	S	R	I	S	E	S
P	A	R	I	S	H	S	C	D
E	G	O	N	F	L	N	Y	C
A	L	O	G	U	S	A	U	R
L	U	K	E	L	E	S	D	O

Yesterday's answer 5-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adele, 33; Henry Cavill, 38; Danielle Fishel, 40; Tina Yothers, 48.

Happy Birthday: Do your best to be helpful. Spend more time accomplishing and less time making a big deal out of trivial matters. Look for the good and the positive, and you'll find a way to get the most out of everyone you encounter and every situation you face. Aim for equality, originality and patience, and do what's right and best for everyone. Your numbers are 7, 10, 17, 26, 31, 38, 32.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put pressure on yourself to get things done correctly. Progress will bring you joy and make you proud. Reach out to someone you like to collaborate with, and you will gain stability and the desire to press forward. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Let your intuition guide you. Don't overreact, take on too much or let anyone take advantage of you. Look for the best way to use your skills to get the most accomplished. Your efforts will be recognized and rewarded. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will interfere with your ability to get things done. Don't mix business with pleasure or make promises you cannot deliver. A change someone initiates will leave you in an awkward position. Consider your options and carry on as usual. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pool resources with someone heading in the same direction and you will find a way to save

time and money. A course you take will give insight into unique ways to work with the skills you already have. Romance is featured. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do what's best for you. Letting someone make decisions for you will leave you in a vulnerable position. Keep your life simple and your plans innovative. A positive attitude will attract someone who appreciates you and what you have to offer. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An emotional situation will arise if you disagree with a friend, relative or lover. Keep the peace by giving others the freedom to think and do as they please. Focus on personal growth, self-improvement and moderation. Romance will enhance your life. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Intelligent banter will broaden your outlook and help you decide what you want to do next. The information you gather will be accurate regarding how to convert your skills to fit trends. A joint venture will end up being costly. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your life simple. Focus on creative endeavors, spirituality and changing the course of your life. Stop spinning your wheels and ending up in the same place. Take the initiative to follow the path that brings you to peace and happiness. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone will be fishing for information. Be careful what you share about your personal life, and keep your possessions and passwords tucked away someplace safe. A steady pace and secretive attitude will be in your best in-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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terest. Avoid excess and health risks. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't go overboard trying to impress someone. Just be yourself, live within your budget and be honest about what you want and what you have to offer. If you are passionate about your likes and dislikes, you'll gain respect. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Speak up, lay down ground rules and go about your business. Don't feel the need to follow someone's lead or feel slighted if someone prefers to do things differently. As long as you are at peace with yourself, that's what counts. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems will surface if you or someone close to you is indulgent or overreacts. Stay calm. Be honest and fair when dealing with friends, relatives and colleagues. Keep the peace, and you will achieve what you set out to do. ***

Birthday Baby: You are whimsical, outgoing and entertaining. You are unpredictable and energetic.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7	9				3	2	
8			3		9			7
5			1		2			9
7			9		1			5
4			7		8			3
6			4		5			2
3			8		7			1
9			2		4			6
	1	4				9	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/05

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	3	5	1	8	7	6	9	4
6	1	9	4	5	2	3	7	8
4	7	8	9	3	6	2	1	5
9	2	1	8	7	4	5	6	3
8	5	6	2	9	3	1	4	7
7	4	3	5	6	1	9	8	2
1	9	4	7	2	5	8	3	6
5	6	7	3	1	8	4	2	9
3	8	2	6	4	9	7	5	1

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SKI RESORTS

Solution: 5 letters

T S G R A N D B N E N G A L P
S E E E I N R E F T K A E P A
S U L T A T L F N E N I P L A
I R N L I G A O R Y E L L A V
L E O D U M M H U I A E S C J
V P O D A R O L O C S P L A S
E U L B I N I L F E E C S N Y
R B S A Y T C D O N N A O Y L
T L F T E R F E E D M W C O N
O I I W I O F R A N C E H N E
N C O A U S T R A L I A I S V
I T H T K E I U L S D R I B A
S L A K E R N V I E N I A M E
A H D O A R A P A H O E F T H
B A I S S U R P V H O T E L S

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Alpine, Alps, Arapahoe, Aspen, Australia, Basin, Birds, Blue, Canyons, City, Colorado, Dolomites, Fairmont, Fernie, Four, France, Frisco, Glen, Grand, Heavenly, Hotels, Idaho, Japan, Lake, Maine, Park, Peak, Plagne, Poland, Republic, Resort, Russia, Samnau, Sella, Silverton, Snow, Sochi, Star, Stowe, Sundance, Tahoe, Taos, Telluride, Utah, Vail, Valley, Visits

Yesterday's Answer: Mobile

Treasures 24 through 41 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

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Westbrook has 21 boards, 24 assists; Wizards blast Pacers

WASHINGTON (AP)—While Russell Westbrook continues to chase down one of the NBA's toughest records, his longtime coach Scott Brooks moved him up one spot on an unscientific list. His own.

Westbrook had the third game in NBA history with 20-plus rebounds and 20-plus assists—he and Wilt Chamberlain have the other two—and the surging Washington Wizards moved closer to Indiana in the Eastern Conference playoff standings by outgunning the Pacers 154-141 on Monday night.

Westbrook had 14 points to go along with his career-high 21 rebounds and career-high-tying 24 assists, his league-leading 32nd triple-double of the season. He has 178 triple-doubles, three short of Oscar Robertson's record, with seven games remaining for Washington.

Magic Johnson had 138 triple-doubles, and Brooks—who coached Westbrook for seven seasons in Oklahoma City before they reunited in Washington this season—said he now believes Westbrook is the second-best point guard in NBA history behind Johnson.

"He's amazing—superhuman at times," Brooks said after admitting he's running out of ways to describe what Westbrook does on a nightly basis.

"Point guards don't do what he does. They're not built that way."

Westbrook didn't comment on his place in history, but he's plenty confident about what he's doing for Washington, which has won 13 of 16.

"Me personally, I feel like I'm the best playmaker in this league," said Westbrook, who leads the NBA with 11 assists per game.

Rui Hachimura scored 27 points and Bradley Beal had 26 as Washington scored a season high and moved within one-half game of Indiana for ninth place in the East. Teams that finish between seventh and 10th will enter the league's new play-in tournament for



Washington Wizards guard Russell Westbrook (4) talks with Indiana Pacers' Jeremy Lamb, right, after a basketball game, Monday, May 3, 2021, in Washington. AP

the main playoff draw.

The Wizards earned the tiebreaker over the Pacers by winning the first two meetings. The teams meet one more time this season at Indiana on Saturday.

Domantas Sabonis had 32 points and 20 rebounds and Caris LeVert scored 33 points for the Pacers, who have lost three of four. Eight Pacers finished in double figures as Indiana scored mostly at will, forcing the high-powered Wizards to work hard deep into the fourth quarter.

Sabonis, who played with Westbrook in 2016-17, had this to say: "There's a lot of pressure on him to perform, and he comes out and does it."

Washington finished the first half with a 20-8 run over the final 4:15 to take an 82-66 lead at the break. Westbrook had three of his 11 second-quarter assists during that stretch. It was Washington's highest scoring first half of the season.

Westbrook had 14 assists and 12 rebounds at the half while taking just three shots.

Westbrook's layup with 10:23 left in the third clinched his triple-double. His 32 are the fourth most in any NBA season; he holds the record with 42.

One game removed from scoring a franchise record 152 points, the Pacers allowed a season high in points as Washington shot 61.2% from the field.

Warriors 123, Pelicans 108

In New Orleans, Stephen Curry scored 41 points, Draymond Green had 10 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds, and Golden State beat desperate New Orleans.

The Warriors, who currently occupy a Western Conference play-in position, moved four games ahead of 11th-place New Orleans with seven games remaining. The teams meet two more times this season.

Andrewiggins added 26 points for Golden State, with 10 coming in a key stretch early in the fourth quarter.

Zion Williamson scored 32 points and Brandon Ingram added 19 points for the Pelicans.

Lakers 93, Nuggets 89

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis scored 25 points and had key plays on both ends of the floor in the final minute as short-handed Los Angeles snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Denver.

The Lakers led by 14 points

midway through the fourth quarter before the Nuggets got within 89-87 with a late rally. Davis hit a jumper with 41.8 seconds remaining to give the Lakers a four-point lead. Nikola Jokic hit a pair of free throws to cut it in half but Talen Horton-Tucker hit a reverse layup with 15.1 seconds left to push the advantage up to 93-89.

After a Denver timeout, Davis blocked Facundo Campazzo's 3-point attempt to end any hopes of a Nuggets' comeback and end their five-game winning streak.

The Lakers—who had lost six of their last seven going into the game—won without two key pieces. LeBron James did not play in the second game of a back-to-back after he ankle soreness during the fourth quarter of Sunday's loss to Toronto. Dennis Schröder will be out more than a week after entering the NBA's health and safety protocol.

Hawks 123, Trail Blazers 114

In Atlanta, Danilo Gallinari made seven 3-pointers and finished with 28 points, leading Atlanta past Portland.

The Hawks snapped Portland's four-game winning

streak, which had come entirely on the road.

After getting in early Monday from Boston, where they beat the Celtics the previous night, the Trail Blazers were forced from the hotel rooms for about a half-hour by a tornado warning in Atlanta.

They ran out of steam in the fourth quarter, ruining a 33-point night for Damian Lillard.

Bogdan Bogdanovic provided the bulk of Atlanta's offense over the first two quarters, scoring 23 of his 25 points for the second highest-scoring half of his career.

Knicks 118, Grizzlies 104

In Memphis, Tenn., Julius Randle scored 28 points, Derrick Rose added 25 on 11-of-15 shooting, and New York held off Memphis.

Dillon Brooks scored 25 points for Memphis, while rookie Desmond Bane added 22.

The Knicks have won 12 of 13 and are assured of their first winning record since going 54-28 in 2012-13.

Memphis was within five points as the game headed down the stretch, but the Grizzlies sealed the loss by receiving

five technicals in a span of 18 seconds.

Jazz 110, Spurs 99

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 25 points, Rudy Gobert had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Utah beat San Antonio.

Jordan Clarkson added 16 points for the Jazz. Joe Ingles chipped in 13 points and eight assists.

DeMar DeRozan scored 22 points and Rudy Gay added 17 points to lead the Spurs, who lost their fourth straight game.

The Jazz led by as many as 25 points in the second half.

76ers 106, Bulls 94

In Chicago, Tobias Harris scored 21 points, Seth Curry added 20 and Philadelphia beat Chicago.

Philadelphia built a big third-quarter lead and then held on for its fifth straight win, staying ahead of the Brooklyn Nets for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

Ben Simmons scored 15 points, Danny Green had 14 and a relatively quiet Joel Embiid scored 13.

Coby White scored 23 points for the Bulls, who played without both Zach LaVine and Nikola Vucevic for the second straight game.

Magic 119, Pistons 112

In Detroit, Mo Bamba had 22 points and 15 rebounds—both career highs—and Orlando beat Detroit.

Saddiq Bey led Detroit with 26 points in a game that had little at stake—with the possible exception of lottery positioning—and a long list of players absent.

Detroit was within three late, but Iggy Brazdeikis made a 3-pointer from the right corner to make it 112-106.

Frank Jackson scored 19 points and Hamidou Diallo had 16 for the Pistons.

Magic coach Clifford clears protocols, to return Wednesday

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando Magic coach Steve Clifford has cleared NBA health and safety protocols for COVID-19 and will return to the bench Wednesday night against Boston.

The Magic said Monday that Clifford would not coach that night's game at Detroit.

Clifford has missed the past five games because of COVID-19 protocols. He tested positive for the virus last month while in between two vaccination shots.

Assistant Tyrone Corbin has served as acting coach.

Source: Cavs to sign Varejão after getting NBA exception

CLEVELAND (AP)—After being away for five years, Anderson Varejão is returning to the Cavaliers.

The curly-haired center, who endeared Cleveland fans with his hustle and his work on the boards, is expected to sign with the Cavaliers for the remainder of the season after the NBA granted the team a roster hardship exception, a person familiar with the decisions told the Associated Press on Monday.

Varejão spent 12 seasons

with Cleveland (2004-2016) before he was traded months before the team won the NBA title. He could join the Cavaliers as early as Tuesday, said the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are ongoing.

Varejão hasn't played in an NBA game since 2017 with Golden State. The 38-year-old's return is little more than a ceremonial move by the Cavs, who want to honor and celebrate Varejão for his time with

the team and give fans something to cheer in the final days of another dreadful season.

Cleveland is 21-43 and has lost six consecutive games. It has five home games left.

One of the league's youngest teams, the Cavaliers have been ravaged by injuries this season and will be missing seven players, including starting point guard Darius Garland (sprained ankle) when they host the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday.

Cleveland qualified for the

hardship exception because it has four players who have missed at least three games due to injury and will continue to be out at least two weeks.

Varejão developed into a relentless rebounder during his time with the Cavaliers, but they needed shooters and traded him at the deadline in 2016—in a three-team deal for Channing Frye.

Varejão spent two seasons with the Warriors, facing the Cavs in the 2017 Finals, and then played two years in his

native Brazil.

Varejão, with his long, unruly hair, was one of Cleveland's most popular players during his years here. Fans loved the gangly big man's passion, and it was bittersweet for many to see him leave and then wind up with the Warriors, who faced the Cavaliers in four straight Finals from 2015-2018.

Varejão averaged 7.3 points and 7.2 rebounds over 14 seasons. He had his best season in 2012-13, averaging 14.4 rebounds and 14.1 points.

Wainwright, Cards win 5th in row; Mets fire hitting coaches



ST. LOUIS
(AP) — Adam Wainwright came off the COVID-19 injured list and hung tough, St. Louis got a lights-out performance from its bullpen and the Cardinals beat the New York Mets 6-5 Monday night for their fifth straight win.

The Cardinals were clinging to a one-run lead in the ninth with two outs and a runner on base when the lights at Busch Stadium flickered, then went out for a moment.

“Thank God a pitch wasn’t in mid-flight or a ball wasn’t going in the air for a flyball or something like that to end the game,” Cardinals manager Mike Shildt said. “I have no explanation for it.”

When play resumed, reliever Alex Reyes walked Pete Alonso before retiring Dominic Smith on a flyball for the final out.

After the game, the Mets fired hitting coach Chili Davis and assistant hitting coach Tom Slater. New York has struggled badly with runners in scoring position this season, a trouble spot last year as well when Davis worked remotely because of coronavirus concerns.

Several accomplished hitters are off to slow starts for the Mets, including \$341 million newcomer Francisco Lindor.

“It was a difficult decision to make,” acting general manager Zack Scott said. “It’s not about 23 games of results.”

“We just felt like the players needed a different level of support and maybe some different skills brought into the mix.” Nolan Arenado and Harrison Bader homered to back Wainwright’s first win of the season. Four Cardinals relievers combined for 3 1/3 hitless innings.

Wainwright (1-3) had been out because of virus contact tracing. He fell behind 5-2 in the third inning, but didn’t give up any more runs before leaving with two outs in the sixth.

“The boys just picked me up tonight,” Wainwright said. “It was a huge win for our team. They did it because I did not. I was terrible.”

Genesis Cabrera and Giovanny Gallegos combined for 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Reyes worked around a pair of walks in the ninth to earn his eighth save — he has not allowed an earned run in 14 1/3 innings this season.

Joey Lucchesi (0-2) allowed six runs on seven hits in 2 2/3 innings after being recalled from the Mets’ alternate training site to make the start. He has not pitched into the fourth inning in any of his three starts this season.

“It’s a little different for me,” Lucchesi said. “Usually once the season starts you get that fifth day start. I’m just trying my best to adapt to it. I don’t want to give any excuses.”

Smith drove in a run on a ground-out and Kevin Pillar hit a two-run homer to put the Mets up in the third.

Arenado answered with a three-run drive in the bottom half to make it 5-all. His fifth home run of the



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets Monday, May 3, 2021, in St. Louis.

season landed in the left-field bullpen. Paul DeJong and Tyler O’Neill followed with doubles to put St. Louis ahead.

“There’s just no quit in this group,” Arenado said. “We just competed our butts off and that was it. Wainwright gave us everything he had.”

Bader hit a 450-foot home run to the left field bleachers, a solo drive that made it 2-all in the second. He connected a day after hitting his first homer of the season.

Tommy Edman led off the first inning with a triple and scored on Dylan Carlson’s sacrifice fly.

Wainwright hit Tomás Nido in the elbow with the bases loaded to tie it in the second. Two batters later, Jeff McNeil walked to put the Mets up 2-1.

Phillies 4, Brewers 3

In Philadelphia, closer Hector Neris needed 40 pitches to make sure the Philadelphia Phillies’ bullpen didn’t blow another one.

Vince Velasquez threw six sharp innings, J.T. Realmuto hit a two-run homer and the Phillies held on to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 4-3 Monday night.

Velasquez (1-0) allowed one run and four hits, striking out six in his longest outing this season. Neris struck out Lorenzo Cain with the bases loaded in the ninth to preserve the win.

“It’s a gutsy performance by Hector,” Phillies manager Joe Girardi said. “I mean, I don’t ever like to let a pitcher go that many pitches. He looked over and said, ‘I got this.’ That was his last hitter no matter what. So, obviously he did a heck of a job.”

Brewers starter Adrian Houser (2-3) gave up four runs — two earned — and four hits in six innings.

Cain blasted a solo homer onto the concourse behind the left-center field stands to give the Brewers a 1-0 lead in the first in his first at-bat off the injury list. But NL Central-leading Milwaukee couldn’t do anything else until Philadelphia went to the bullpen.

Rays 7, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Willy Adames and Manuel Margot homered, Mike Brosseau had a two-run single and Tampa Bay opened a seven-game California road trip with a victory over Los Angeles.

Tyler Glasnow (4-1) pitched six innings of four-hit ball with three walks for the defending AL champion Rays. The Los Angeles-area native largely dominated the Angels’ lineup until a rocky sixth, striking out eight for his fourth win in five starts.

Shohei Ohtani hit his ninth homer after being scratched from his scheduled pitching start earlier in the day for the Angels, who have lost eight of 12.

Anthony Rendon also homered in the sixth, but the slugging third baseman exited in the eighth after sharply fouling a ball off his left knee. Rendon, who has already missed 12 games this season due to injuries, had to be helped off the field.

José Quintana (0-3) yielded five runs and six hits with nine strikeouts for the Angels while failing to get out of the fourth inning in another poor start.

Padres 2, Pirates 0

In San Diego, Wil Myers singled

with no outs in the seventh inning to end Tyler Anderson’s no-hit bid and San Diego gave Pittsburgh its fifth straight loss.

Anderson (2-3) kept the Padres off-balance for six innings before they broke through in the seventh. Anderson issued a leadoff walk to Manny Machado before Myers singled to right field. Until then, Anderson had allowed only three baserunners, two on walks and one on his error in the fifth inning.

After Myers’ hit, Tommy Pham hit a sacrifice fly and Austin Nola hit an RBI single with two outs to chase Anderson. San Diego had just three hits.

The Padres needed a bullpen game because three starters are out with injuries or illness. San Diego’s sixth pitcher, Mark Melancon, pitched the ninth for his 10th save. Miguel Diaz, Craig Stammen, Austin Adams, Tim Hill (2-2) and Drew Pomeranz also contributed to the four-hitter.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 4

In Oakland, Calif., Ramon Laureano homered for the third consecutive day and Oakland beat Toronto, spoiling Marcus Semien’s return to the Coliseum.

Stephen Piscotty also went deep for Oakland. Jed Lowrie doubled twice and had three hits.

Frankie Montas (3-2) pitched six uneven innings to win the first meeting between the teams in more than two years. Jake Diekmann worked the ninth for his third save.

Laureano connected on a 1-0 pitch from starter Steven Matz (4-2) to break a 3-all tie in the fifth.

Indians 8, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Mo., Eddie Rosario watched anxiously as plate umpire Dan Bellino called a ball what could easily have been strike three, then swatted the next pitch into the right-field stands for a tiebreaking three-run homer that sent Cleveland over Kansas City.

Josh Naylor added a two-run shot off Royals reliever Jakob Junis (1-2) two batters later, turning what would have been a scoreless seventh inning with Rosario’s would-be punch-out into a five-run frame.

Bryan Shaw (1-0) coughed up a run in relief of Indians starter Aaron Civale, and James Karinchak gave up Hunter Dozier’s two-run homer later in the seventh, before their bullpen finally wrapped up their sixth win in eight games.

Emmanuel Clase worked around a single in the ninth for his sixth save. He’s yet to allow an earned run in 13 1/3 innings.

Orioles 5, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Cedric Mullins and Freddy Galvis each hit a two-run homer in Baltimore’s five-run eighth inning against Seattle.

Shut down by Seattle’s bullpen for seven innings, the Orioles broke loose in the eighth. Mullins got it started with a shot off Anthony Misiewicz (2-1) to right-center field that was nearly stolen at the wall by right fielder Mitch Haniger. The ball appeared to graze the top of Haniger’s glove as he crashed into the fence.

Dean Kremer had arguably the best start of his young career, throwing six innings for Baltimore and allowing just two hits and one run. The only blemish was Tom Murphy’s solo homer in the fifth.

Cole Sulser (1-0) pitched the seventh, but Shawn Armstrong ran into trouble in the eighth. He gave up a two-run homer to Haniger, his eighth of the season. That’s all the Mariners got, though, as Tanner Scott finished the eighth and César Valdez pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Twins 6, Rangers 5

In Minneapolis, Kenta Maeda steered himself back on track by keeping Texas scoreless into the sixth inning, and Minnesota won the opener of a four-game series.

Maeda (2-2) had a season-high eight strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings, allowing only two singles and two walks in what was by far the best of his six starts this season.

Jorge Polanco had an RBI triple and an RBI double, and rookie Alex Kirilloff kept up his torrid start with two doubles for the Twins. One of them was a two-out, run-scoring line drive to left field in a three-run sixth that came against the left-handed reliever, Kolby Allard, brought in to face him.

Adolis García hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning for the Rangers. Joey Gallo hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth against Taylor Rogers, who got his second save by striking out García. Dane Dunning (1-2) allowed two earned runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Camacho grips lead in Big Boy ATV class

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER



Christian Camacho remains on top with a perfect record in the Big Boy ATV class of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

Camacho remains untouchable with a perfect overall score of 200 after placing first in the last four series of the race.

During the fourth leg of the race last April 25, Camacho swept the first and second heat to gain a perfect 50 points for the fourth series.

Coming in second was Mike Dela Cruz who only started the series in the fourth leg. He finished third in both heats to gain 40 points, putting him at fifth place overall.

Ton Basa completed the



Christian Camacho remains on top with a perfect record in the Big Boy ATV class of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

JOSEPH CHIN

Top 3 after placing fourth in both heats gaining 36 points and bringing his overall score up to 58. He currently holds the fourth-place spot in the overall standings.

Rex Susulin still holds Top 2 overall spot with a score of 64.01 even after placing fourth during the last series of the race with a score of 22.

Meanwhile in the Veterans

Class, Dave Celis still holds the No. 1 spot after placing first in both heats of the fourth series race to gain 50 points, bringing his overall score to 185.

Cuki Alvarez came in second last April 25 in both heats to gain 44 points. He still holds No. 2 in overall standings with a score of 176.

Rounding up the Top 3 for

both the fourth leg of the race and overall standings is Melvin Cepeda. Cepeda placed third in both heats to gain 40 points to bump his overall score up to 166.

Alvarez also conquered the expert class during the fourth leg of the series after placing first in both heats to earn 50 points. However, he remains No. 2 in the overall standings with a score of 167, just 3 points behind first-place holder Angelito Hernaez.

Hernaez was runner-up to Alvarez during the fourth series race after coming in third in the first heat and second in the second heat to earn a total of 42 points, bringing his overall score up to 170.

Shane Alvarez completed the fourth series race's Top 3 after placing second in the first heat and third in the second heat to gain him 42 points. He currently holds fifth place in overall standings with a total score 139.

3 NAMED

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also responsible for the physical setup for the composition. NMSA chose Labausa not just for her accomplishments during the championships, but for also being a team player who trains both herself and other athletes to improve their abilities.

Costales was named Female Student Athlete of the Month for her accomplishment in taking the lead for the Golden Boot Award in Division A of the Dove Women's Soccer League.

Costales, a senior at Marianas High School, is the current leader for the Golden Boot Award in Division A of the Dove Women's Soccer League with 7 goals after the fifth week of the league. In addition, she managed 2 goals for the NMI Women's Team that plays in Division B of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Men's League.

The honoree plays for Shirley's Football Club in the women's league and in addition to playing in the leagues and training with the national



NMSA gave the honor of Team of the Month for March to SIS Cares For Animals for their win during the inaugural NMI Women's 10K Run.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

women's team. Costales also coaches aspiring youth national team players selected for the NMIFA Junior Academy, also known as the Youth Elite Academy. She also coaches two TanHoldings Football Club teams, the Division B team in the women's league, and the U15 co-ed team that is now preparing for the youth league.

Also, Costales just received a "C" License, or a coaching certificate, after taking the course in late February. A "C"

license is the minimum requirement to be appointed as a coach for international soccer tournaments.

Costales has gained quite a bit of experience in soccer as she has represented the NMI in several international tournaments, the last of which was the AFC U16 Championship Qualifiers held in Tajikistan in 2018.

For the Team of the Month, NMSA gave the honor to SIS Cares For Animals for their

win during the inaugural NMI Women's 10K Run.

During the NMI Women's 10K Run, Team SIS Cares for Animals, which comprised of Noriko Jim, Sarka Glajchova, Tiana Cabrera, and Anika Snyder, finished with a time of 2:27:33 to top the overall team category finishing ahead of nine other teams.

The team chose Saipan Cares for Animals as the beneficiary of funds raised from the event.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 20

team currently holds a 3-2 win-loss record.

Southern United's Kaithlyn Chavez showed the way with three goals with help from Brittany Wally and Christina Atalig who contributed a goal each.

Meanwhile, Kanoa's Irish Pagarao carried the team after landing all five of the team's goals.

DIVISION B Shirley's 3, TanHoldings 3

Meanwhile, Shirley's clinched the top seed for Division B after last Sunday's match. Following the draw against TanHoldings, Shirley's holds a win-loss record of 6-0 and one draw and is just two games away from finals.

Southern United 7, MP United 0

Southern United coasted past MP United behind Kei-

sha Deleon Guerrero who landed four of the team's winning goals with help from Megan Elayda who contributed two and Erin Frink who added one.

Southern United holds the No. 2 spot in the division with a win-loss record of 5-2.

MASTERS TanHoldings 1, Kanoa 0

TanHoldings' Mariquit Chavez carried her team to victory after making the lone goal in the 50th minute of the match. The team currently holds fourth place in the division with a win-loss record of 3-4.

Matansa 2, Paire Team-2 1

Matansa took the win over No. 2 Paire Team-2 last Sunday behind Tawny Barcinas and Bunruang Brasuell who made two goals each.

Matansa is currently third place in the overall standings with a win-loss record of 3-3 with one draw.

TRENCH

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COVID-19, of course.

Trench Tech's MMA matches are a display of pure human strength and agility, showcasing fitness and fighting prowess on a level rarely seen outside a ring. Those fights are sheer excitement incredibly popular. "Whenever we have a show,

we pretty much sell out the house," said Alvarez.

Which is the problem at the moment. "We still want to have [a show], but we're at the mercy of social distancing, as packed as mixed martial arts fights are. Events in the octagon are, by necessity, close-in viewing, and really, the audience is a primary component of those events, soaking up intrigue and build hype in return. Without at-

tendees, an MMA match just isn't the same. Current restrictions mean that gathering that many cheering people just isn't possible."

So, the MMA community—fighters and fans—continue to wait. The moment they get word that the restriction is lifted, we'll see a comeback for the ages. The MMA community is ready and eager. In the meantime, Alvarez's gym is training ev-

ery day, getting strong and teaching its members to love martial arts for the joy of the sport. Trench Tech is staying active and in the game with youth MMA classes, which started just last month, and yoga classes for adults and kids.

The CNMI hasn't had an MMA event since Trench Tech hosted the Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown held in April 27, 2018 at the Marianas



Shirley's FC officially secure the top seed for Division A of the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 following their match last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Westbrook has 21 boards, 24 assists; Wizards blast Pacers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's takes top seed in Division A

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Shirley's FC officially secured the top seed in Division A of the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 following their match last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



With just one match away from the finals, Shirley's earned the top seed by a landslide with a win-loss record of 7-0 and one draw.

Shirley's eased past TanHoldings last Sunday with a 9-2 victory further widening the gap for top the seed in Division A.

In its match against TanHoldings, Shirley's Katrina Costales led the way with her three goals with contributions from Jerlyn Castillo, who added 2 goals, and Julianne Hall, Fiona Bucalig, and Mae Ito contributing a goal apiece.

Shirley's secured the lead in the first

10 minutes with back-to-back goals from Hall, Costales, and Castillo.

In the 11th minute, TanHoldings' Hix Tamia landed a goal in an attempt to catch up to their foes, but Costales came back with two goals in the 13th and 14th minute followed by a goal from Bucalig in the 20th minute.

Aubrey Castro secured the last goal for TanHoldings in the 35th minute of the match before Ito and Castillo finished the game off with another two goals.

DIVISION A

Southern United 5, Kanoa 5

Southern United maintained the No. 2 spot in the Division A rankings after its third draw of the season. The

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 19



Shirley's FC's Mae Ito intercepts a goal during one of their matches for the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

3 named NMSA athletes of the month

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has named weightlifters Leonardo E. Apelo and Antonette Labausa and soccer player Katrina Costales as athletes of the month for March.

Apelo won Male Athlete of the Month for dominating his weight class during the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup Weightlifting Championships.

He won his weight class and was

the best overall lifter in the competition with his best snatch at 115 kg/253 lbs and his best clean and jerk at 145 kg/319 lbs for a total of 260 kg/572 lbs.

Apelo has gained a lot of experience in the sport as he has been lifting for over a decade and has won gold medals for the CNMI in Guam and at the Micronesian Games. Because of that experience, Apelo also makes himself available to help



CNMI Weightlifting and its member athletes.

NMSA also named Labausa as the Female Athlete of the Month after topping her weight class also during the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup Weightlifting Championships.

Labausa won her weight class with a best snatch at 76 kg/167.2 lbs and a best clean and jerk of 94 kg/206.8 lbs for total of 165 kg/363 lbs. She was

See 3 NAMED on Page 19



Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho, right, jumps to block a high kick from Tinian's Austin John King in one of the undercard bouts in the Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown held last April 27, 2018 at the Marianas Business Plaza. **ROSELYN B. MONROY**

Trench Tech waiting on the word 'go'

By **CODY RACE**
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CORRESPONDENT

It's been a long wait for the mixed martial arts enthusiasts at Trench Tech Inc., one of the CNMI's premier martial arts gyms, and sadly, that wait is not yet over, according to Trench Tech owner and operator Cuki Alvarez.

They haven't had a proper show in over two years and circumstance hasn't been kind recently. "The last time we had a show was before [Super] Typhoon Yutu," said Alvarez. "And Yutu messed up our whole infrastructure, and Saipan was shut down for more than a year... And what happened after that?"

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Costales



Apelo



Labausa